Bengaluru Thursday, December 25, 2025 Pages 16 Vol 78 No 355 ₹7

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'Bahubali' launches 6,100 kg US satellite

Heaviest satellite launch from Indian soil

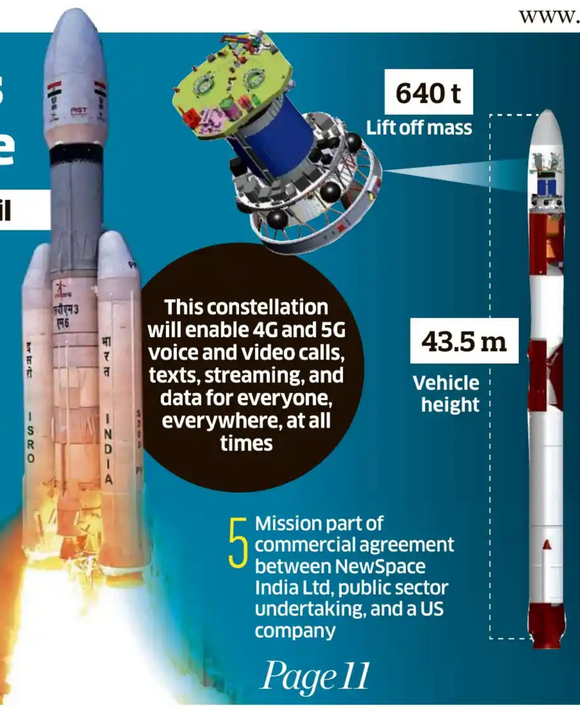
1. LVM3 is the operational heavy lift launch vehicle of Isro
2. This is the 6th operational flight of LVM3
3. This is the third dedicated commercial mission to launch the BlueBird Block-2 spacecraft
4. BlueBird Block-2 spacecraft is the heaviest payload (6,100 kgs) to be placed into Low Earth Orbit (LEO)
5. Mission part of commercial agreement between NewSpace India Ltd, public sector undertaking, and a US company

BlueBird Block-2 mission is part of a global LEO constellation to provide direct-to-mobile connectivity through satellite

This constellation will enable 4G and 5G voice and video calls, texts, streaming, and data for everyone, everywhere, at all times

"It was a textbook launch. The LVM3 rocket has demonstrated its 100% success rate

Dr V Narayanan
Isro chairman



Page 11

DH wishes its readers a

Merry Christmas

Quickly

9 die as bus collides with 2 cars in TN

At least nine people died and several others were injured on Wednesday night when a public transport bus from Tiruchirappalli to Chennai collided with two cars in Cuddalore district. As per initial information, all nine deceased were occupants of the two cars. Police said the bus jumped off the highway median after one of its tyres burst and collided with the cars.

Aravalli: Centre bars fresh mining leases

Amid the controversy over the protection of the Aravalli hills, the Union Environment Ministry on Wednesday said directions have been issued to the states "for a complete ban on the grant of any new mining leases in the Aravallis" till new sustainable mining plans are prepared as per the Supreme Court's direction.
Details on Page 10

Uddhav, Raj announce alliance

In a major turning point in Maharashtra politics, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) founder Raj Thackeray on Wednesday announced an electoral alliance ahead of the municipal corporation elections across the state, including Mumbai. If successful, the alliance of two Thackeray cousins could significantly reshape Maharashtra's political landscape.
Details on Page 10

2 airlines get govt nod for operations

Two new airlines – Al Hind Air and FlyExpress – are set to take to the skies, with the carriers receiving their NOC from the aviation ministry. In 2026, apart from these two carriers, UP-based Shankh Air is likely to start operations. Al Hind Air is being promoted by Kerala-based Alhind Group. Currently, there are nine operational scheduled domestic carriers in the country.

New rules to ease non-agri use of farmlands in state

RELAXED RULES

- Establishing new industry on agri land up to 2 acres will not require conversion
- Auto-conversion of farmlands located in urban masterplan
- Process of converting agri land for non-agri use being taken online
- DCs must issue conversion orders within 30 days from application

No need for prior approval for green energy, small units on farmland

BENGALURU, DHNS

The government has exempted renewable energy projects and small-scale industries from obtaining prior permission to start operating on agricultural land, in a big ease-of-doing-business reform.

The government is also giving effect to auto-conversion of farmlands for non-agricultural use if they come under a master plan in urban areas.

These reforms are under the newly-notified Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Rules.

"This is the largest revision in decades. These are pro-people initiatives and ease of governance is the driving force," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said.

Any person holding land being used for agricultural purposes had to apply with the deputy commissioner for permission to divert it for non-agricultural use.

This was widely considered as a corrupt and cumbersome process.

Now, establishing a new industry on agricultural land up to two acres will not require conversion.

"This will apply to small-scale and agro-based industries," Gowda said.

Similarly, renewable energy projects -- solar, wind, hybrid, energy storage, biomass and waste-to-energy -- will not need conversion.

The process of converting agricultural land for non-agricultural use is being taken online, for which the government is developing a software.

Applicants can apply online for auto-conversion.

For agricultural lands governed by a master plan, the government is doing away with conversion.

Deputy commissioners will have to issue the conversion orders within 30 days from application.

Otherwise, it is "deemed to be provisionally approved", the rules state.

In an earlier interview to *DH*, Gowda gave the example of an agricultural land that falls under a residential zone in a master plan.

"That land gets automatically converted for residential use. You want to form a layout? Apply for a layout approval directly. At present, even if the land is in a residential zone, you have to get it converted. We want to eliminate this step," he had said.

Misusing the land-conversion relaxations will result in a penalty of Rs 1 lakh and an additional fine of Rs 2,500 for each day's violation.

"...such penalty and additional penalty shall be entered into the Record of Rights, Tenancy, and Crops (RTC) as an encumbrance," the new rules state.

Webcasting

On Wednesday, Krishna Byre Gowda said the new rules allow the introduction of live webcasting of revenue court proceedings. "It will be done on a trial basis at some revenue courts," he said. The government will also allow parties to attend revenue court proceedings via video conference, the minister added.

'China seeks to capitalise on LAC calm'

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI: China probably seeks to capitalise from deescalating tensions along the Line of Actual Control with India to stabilise bilateral relations and prevent the deepening of US-India ties, according to a report by the US Department of War.

In its annual report to Congress on Tuesday on 'Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2025', the department said that in October 2024, Indian leadership announced an agreement with China.

The pact was to disengage from remaining standoff sites along the LAC.
Details on Page 12

Auction for liquor permits from Jan 13

State has not issued new CL-2, CL-9 licences since 1992

BENGALURU, DHNS

RAKING IN REVENUES

- The government expects to rake in revenues of Rs 500-1,000 crore
- Of the 569 licences that will be auctioned, 477 are for retail shops
- 92 bar & restaurant licences will be auctioned, all with a base price of Rs 1.1 crore to Rs 1.5 crore
- Government expects bidding to go up to Rs 3 crore a licence in Bengaluru

A total of 569 defunct liquor licences across the state will be auctioned starting January 13 with the government fixing the base price for each permit at Rs 1.5 crore in Bengaluru.

This is the first liquor permit auction, which CM Siddaramaiah announced in the 2025-26 Budget. The state expects to rake in revenues of Rs 500-1,000 crore.

Going under the hammer are CL-2 (retail liquor shop) and CL-9 (bar & restaurant) licences. Two new categories will be added for auctioned licences: CL(2-A) and CL(9-A).

Karnataka has not issued new CL-2 and CL-9 licences since 1992, making them prized possessions. There are 3,995 CL-2 and 3,637 CL-9 licences, which are renewed annually.

Due to the freeze on new CL-2 and CL-9 licences, existing permits are sold at huge prices every year, running into a few crores, including bribes. The government, however, gets only annual fees for these licences, which ranges from Rs 4 lakh to Rs 7.5 lakh.
▸ Liquor, Page 7

Survivor protests. PTI

CBI to move SC against relief to Unnao accused

NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW, DHNS/PTI: The CBI will immediately challenge the suspension of life sentence and bail to former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the Unnao rape case in the Supreme Court, officials said on Wednesday.

Sengar will remain in jail as he is also serving a 10-year term for the custodial death of the survivor's father.

Meanwhile, the survivor termed the Delhi High Court's decision to suspend Sengar's sentence as 'injustice' and alleged she and her family have started receiving threats from the expelled BJP leader's henchmen.
Details on Page 10

Nod for Bedthi–Varada plan DPR

DCM D K Shivakumar on Wednesday said the Karnataka government has given an in-principle approval to the Centre's proposal for preparing a detailed project report for the Bedthi–Varada link project. Of the project cost of Rs 10,000 crore, the Centre will spend Rs 9,000 crore with the rest funded by the state.
P 4

Will support Hindu man's kin: B'desh

Bangladesh interim government's senior adviser has said the state will take responsibility of the family of the Hindu worker who was lynched last week. Meanwhile, members of a pro-Hindu outfits held protests at land ports along the India-Bangladesh border in Bengal over the killing.
P 12

Ex-chief secy, HC judges among those denied e-khata in B'luru

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

> Though there is a system where applications rejected by assistant revenue officers have to be checked by revenue officers and further by the deputy commissioner, rejections for genuine applications have continued. Citizens are unnecessarily being harassed
>
> **A SENIOR OFFICIAL**

High court judges, both serving and retired, a former chief secretary, athletes and some well-known persons are among the thousands of property owners in Bengaluru whose e-khata applications have been rejected without a valid reason, sources in the know say.

According to informed sources, in the last three months, nearly 25,000 e-khata applications have been rejected in the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) limits, raising concerns about corruption among officials.

To keep a check on the rejections, the GBA has now formed a dedicated team that will review all the rejected applications and check if the rejections are due to genuine reasons.

A man residing in Jayanagar since 1959 said he was shocked to find out that his e-khata application had been rejected. The case worker concerned had approved his application after he submitted all the required records.

The resident, who didn't want to be named, said there were no grounds for rejecting his application.

As complaints started pouring in, senior officials were forced to check the records to ascertain the genuineness of these rejections.
▸ E-khata, Page7

BJP workers celebrate the TP poll win Manki.

Urban local body elections: BJP wins 4 TPs

BENGALURU, PTI: The BJP on Wednesday swept the general elections held to four town panchayats in Karnataka, which the party termed as a clear rejection of the Congress government's "failures and misgovernance" in the state.

The party has also won bypolls held for one ward each -- at a City Municipal Council in Bengaluru Rural district, and at a town panchayat in Raichur district, respectively.
Details on Page 6

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Records tumble, ton feast on VHT Day 1

BENGALURU, DHNS

Virat Kohli slammed a century on his return to domestic List A cricket after a gap of 12 years in Bengaluru, while Rohit Sharma lit up Jaipur with 155 against Sikkim as the Vijay Hazare Trophy's opening day produced records on Wednesday.

In Ahmedabad, after Jharkhand set a 413-run target, Karnataka registered the highest successful chase in the history of the tournament to achieve the target, helped by Devdutt Padikkal's 145.
Details on Page 15

Of Kohli, Rohit's tons, K'taka's record & Bihar's feat

At 14 yrs & 272 days, **Vaibhav Suryavanshi** became the youngest centurion in all one-day cricket when he smashed 190 against Arunachal Pradesh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy

- Suryavanshi also set the record for the fastest 150 (59 balls) in one-day cricket, bettering 64-ball record by South Africa's AB de Villiers in 2015

Suryavanshi, Ayush Loharuka and **Sakibul Gani** all slammed tons for Bihar against Arunachal; the first time in VHT that a team has 3 centuries in an innings

Gani registered the fastest List A ton by an Indian, taking just 32 balls. **Ishan Kishan** finished close behind him with a 33-ball ton against Karnataka

Karnataka chased down Jharkhand's **413-run target for the highest successful chase** in the history of VHT. This would be the second-highest run-chase in all one-day cricket after South Africa's 435 vs Aus in 2006

Techie bought gun from Bihar for Rs 80k to kill wife: Police

Carried knife as backup; had done online research

Bhuvaneshwari

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Software engineer Selva Balamurugan "meticulously planned" the murder of his wife, conducting extensive online research and procuring an illegal firearm from Bihar, police investigations have revealed.

The 40-year-old carried out detailed Google searches and data research, and watched videos online to study different methods of killing and ensure the execution was effective, a police officer close to the investigation said.

On Tuesday evening, Balamurugan allegedly shot dead his estranged wife Bhuvaneshwari (39) near her home in Rajajinagar before walking into a police station and surrendering, police said.

The victim had served him a divorce notice just a week earlier.

Bhuvaneshwari was an assistant bank manager and lived with her two children. Balamurugan, who worked at a multinational in Whitefield, quit his job a few months ago.

The couple, married in 2011, had been living separately for the past one-and-a-half years due to marital discord.

Police said Balamurugan suspected his wife of having an extramarital affair, while Bhuvaneshwari was seeking legal separation, which he opposed.

Balamurugan, a native of Salem in Tamil Nadu, was "extremely possessive" and could not tolerate his wife's alleged extramarital relationship, which police believe was the primary motive behind the crime. Determined to kill her, he also carried a knife as a backup weapon in case the firearm misfired.

Preliminary investigations further revealed that soon after Bhuvaneshwari separated from him, Balamurugan allegedly threatened her family members, warning that he would kill her if she continued to live away from him. However, the family ignored the threats.

After his surrender, police arrested Balamurugan, subjected him to a medical examination and obtained a court order for custodial interrogation.

Investigations revealed that he travelled by train to Bihar in July and bought a country-made pistol for Rs 80,000 from a gunrunner.

"He stayed there for some time, bought two magazines and learnt how to operate the firearm," the officer told *DH*.

A special police team will travel to Bihar to identify and apprehend the gunrunner based on information provided by Balamuragan, the officer added.

Police have also sought the help of a ballistics expert to shed more light on the firearm.

ACP caught taking bribe

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Lokayukta police trapped and detained the Malleswaram subdivision Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) while he was allegedly accepting a bribe from a hotel owner.

Krishnamurthy H allegedly demanded a monthly bribe of Rs 50,000 from the owner of Sagar Hotel to allow it to stay open beyond permissible hours. The hotel owner lodged a Lokayukta complaint about this. An audio recording in which the ACP purportedly demanded the bribe was submitted as evidence and an FIR was registered. On Wednesday, the officials laid a trap and caught him red-handed while accepting Rs 30,000 as bribe.

Film festival's new venue sparks access concerns

Cinephiles say event at Lulu Mall may end up pinching pockets

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) on Tuesday announced a new venue for its 17th edition, beginning January 29.

The festival, which was earlier held at PVR Cinemas in Orion Mall, Rajajinagar, has now been shifted to Cinepolis at Lulu Mall, also located in Rajajinagar.

Cinephiles express concerns over accessibility and claim the festival experience will be an expensive affair with fewer eateries in proximity to the new venue.

The closest metro station to Lulu Mall is the Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Metro Station, an exhausting 700-metre walk from the mall. However, Lulu Mall has been providing free buggy services to and from the metro station. At the Orion Mall, the Sandal Soap Factory metro station is located within 300 metres.

Another concern is about seating capacity at Cinepolis in Lulu Mall, which has a total of only 2,052 seats.

Murali PB, artistic director of the festival, said that the difference in the seating will only be about 150 screens.

"PVR in Orion had about 2,600 seating capacity. We were able to screen films in only seven halls — one hall was booked for masterclasses and three gold class screens for jury screenings — making it only about 2,200 seats. At Cinepolis, movies will be screened on all 11 screens. Delegates will also have more options," he said.

The festival will also have eight days of screening this year. Sadhu Kokila, chairperson of the Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy, said Lulu Mall had agreed to give separate space for workshops and masterclasses, press conferences, open-air screenings and photo exhibitions. "This will allow people apart from registered delegates to participate in the festival," he told *DH*.

"We had planned open-air screenings last year itself but did not get permission at Orion Mall. The Brigade Gateway apartments facing the mall objected to it. But Lulu Mall has no objection to us utilising the premises for the same," he added.

Kannada classics restored and remastered at the National Film Archive of India (NFAI) in Pune will be brought down to Bengaluru for open-air screenings, he confirms.

Speaking about the distance between the mall and the nearest metro station, Kokila said more buggies would be added for the convenience of the public. "Apart from that, there is also a bus stop at Sujatha Talkies, a 150 metre walk to the mall."

All the mall facilities that were offered at Orion — concession on parking fee and substandard food prices inside PVR — will continue to apply at Lulu Mall, he said. "Additionally, we will also collaborate with a restaurant inside the mall to issue coupons for BIFFes delegates at substandard prices."

Elephant enters school, triggers panic

BENGALURU, DHNS: An agitated elephant entered a residential school in DK Nagar of Dodda Alahalli village in Kanakapura taluk of Bengaluru South district on Monday morning, triggering panic among students and faculty.

The incident, involving the entry of the pachyderm into the Morarji Desai Residential School, came to light on Wednesday after a video went viral. The school is located on the forest fringes.

Alert faculty members informed the forest department, following which officials rushed to the spot and drove the elephant back into the forest.

It later came to light that the elephant had earlier charged at Rudraswamy, a tax collector with the Achhalu gram panchayat. Rudraswamy fell off his bike but managed to escape. The incident is believed to have agitated the animal, which then entered the school campus.

Villagers said a nearly 20-metre gap in the compound wall behind the school had enabled the elephant to enter the premises. They said the construction of a full-length compound wall would help prevent such incidents in the future.

Builder booked for selling same flat to different buyers, raising multiple loans

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Police have booked Ozone Urbana Infra Developers Pvt Ltd and its senior executives for allegedly selling the same flat to two different buyers and raising multiple bank loans on it.

Devanahalli police registered an FIR on Tuesday based on a complaint filed by Vinod Kumar on behalf of Phalaksh Shrishail Walishetty, the first and lawful purchaser of flat number T-1102 at Ozone Urbana Avenue, Kannamangala.

According to the complaint, Walishetty entered into a sale agreement with the developer on December 15, 2017, and paid Rs 1.33 crore. Despite this, the builder allegedly executed a second sale agreement for the same flat in favour of another individual, Sabyasachi Das Mahapatra, on November 11, 2021, without disclosing the earlier transaction, the complaint alleged.

The developer and its directors also raised separate home loans on the same flat from different financial institutions, including IndiaBulls and SBI/YES Bank, it added.

While the first buyer continues to repay the loan, the flat was resold, causing wrongful loss to the complainant as well as the lending institutions. The complainant sought action against the company, its chairman S Vasudevan, former director Priya Vasudevan, directors Sai Prasad, Durbakala Vamsi Sai, S Baaskaran, former CEO Srinivasan Gopalan, and other individuals or authorised bank officials found involved during investigation.

Vinod Kumar, an HR professional and complainant, said he had to run from one office to another for 12 days before the police registered the FIR.

"We approached the local police station and met senior officers, including the ACP and the joint commissioner. Despite submitting all documents, we were made to run from office to office for nearly 12 days before the FIR was finally registered. Only after repeated follow-ups was the FIR registered," he told *DH*.

He alleged that the builder kept sale agreements unregistered to show already sold flats as unsold inventory, issue NOCs and enable multiple buyers to raise loans on the same property. "This appears to be a systematic method used to raise funds repeatedly on the same property," he said.

He also flagged the role of banks, alleging that the second buyer was sanctioned a home loan without verifying whether the flat had been sold earlier. "Ozone Urbana Avenue alone has 1,000 homebuyers, many of whom have taken loans under subvention and other schemes, and are now burdened with EMIs without getting possession," he said.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RCD, ROAD DIVISION, JAMSHEDPUR, JHARKHAND

e-Procurement Notice
For National Competitive Bidding
(2nd Call)
e-Tender Reference No. RCD/JAMSHEDPUR/2650, Date-24.12.2025

1.	Name of the work	Reconstruction of Road from Kating More to Hurumbil via Samajobra Dandudih Road (Job No. CRF-JHR-2025-26 FY 2025-26 (Total Length 19.135km)
2.	Estimated Cost of Work (in INR)	Rs 54,92,17,051.16 (Rupees Fifty Four Crore Ninety two Lakh seventeen thousand fifty one rupees & paise sixteen Only)
3.	Initial Bid Security (Rs In Lacs)	Rs 55.00 Lakh (Rupees Fifty Five Lakh only).
4.	Initial Bid Security in the shape of	Initial Bid Security - As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
5.	Cost of Bidding documents	Rs 10,000.00 (Rs Ten Thousand) only.
6.	Time of Completion	12 (Twelve Months)
7.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	26.12.2025 at 12.30 P.M.
8.	Start date of bidding	26.12.2025 from 12.30 P.M.
9.	Last date & Time for online bidding	22.01.2026 up to 02.00 PM.
10.	Type of Bid	Two envelope mode (Technical and Financial Bid)
11.	Last date & time for receipt of Bid Security and other documents in Online form	22.01.2026 Through e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
12.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	27.01.2026 at 12.30 PM by Chairman e-Procurement Cell, Room No. 330 A, 3rd Floor, Road Construction Department, Jharkhand Mantralaya, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004.
13.	Date & Time of Pre Bid Meeting	02.01.2026 on 12.30 P.M. At Office of the Chief Engineer (Communication), Road Construction Department, Engineers Hostel No.2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
14.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur, Road No.- 1, CH Area.
15.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	0657-2227724
16.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Above informations are only indicative. Detail NIT & SBD publised on Tender portal shall be final and mandatory. Details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
- cum -
Executive Engineer
RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur

PR.NO.369324 Road(25-26):D

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RCD, ROAD DIVISION, JAMSHEDPUR, JHARKHAND

Short e-Procurement Notice
For National Competitive Bidding
Short e-Tender Reference No. RCD/JAMSHEDPUR/2625, Date-23.12.2025

1.	Name of the work	IRQP work of Baharagora Market Road from Motel Chowk to Shrishtha Chowk via Bartal Chowk & Towards Chaurangi Chowk (Total Length-3.4 km) for the year 2025-26
2.	Estimated Cost of Work (in INR)	Rs 2,45,59,675.15 (Rupees Two Crore Forty Five Lakh Fifty Nine thousand Six Hundred Seventy Five & Paise Fifteen Only)
3.	Initial Bid Security (Rs In Lacs)	Rs 4.92 Lakh (Rupees Four Lakh Ninety Two Thousand only).
4.	Initial Bid Security in the shape of	Initial Bid Security - As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
5.	Cost of Bidding documents	Rs 10,000.00 (Rs Ten Thousand) only.
6.	Time of Completion	02 (Two Months)
7.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	26.12.2025 at 12.30 P.M.
8.	Start date of bidding	26.12.2025 from 12.30 P.M.
9.	Last date & Time for online bidding	08.01.2026 up to 02.00 PM.
10.	Type of Bid	Single envelope mode
11.	Last date & time for receipt of Bid Security and other documents in Online form	08.01.2026 Through e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
12.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	09.01.2026 at 12.30 PM by e-Procurement cell, Office of The Chief Engineer (Comm), RCD, Jharkhand, 1st Floor, Engineer's Hostel No. 2, Near Dhurwa Golchakkar, Ranchi.
13.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur, Road No.- 1, CH Area.
14.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	0657-2227724
15.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Above informations are only indicative. Detail NIT & SBD publised on Tender portal shall be final and mandatory. Details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
- cum -Executive Engineer
RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur

PR 369284 Road(25-26)#D

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Phone No-: +91-788-2200062, website: www.csvtu.ac.in

Adv. No. 10013/CSVTU/Admn/2025 Date: 23/12/2025

सूचना

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कुलसचिव
छगस्वावितवि, भिलाई

यह सूचना केवल पारदर्शिता हेतु जारी की जा रही है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल,देवघर

शुद्धि–पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि भवन प्रमंडल देवघर द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–BCD/EE/ 13/ DEOGHAR/2025-26 जिसका पी0 आर0 संख्या–368217 Building (25-26)D के निविदा में आंशिक संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्रमांक	विवरणी	पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि	संशोधित तिथि
1	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	24.12.2025 11:00 बजे	26.12.2025 11:00 बजे
2	बिड प्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम तिथि/समय	29.12.2025 11:00 बजे	03.01.2026 11:00 बजे
3	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग भवन प्रमंडल, देवघर।	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग भवन प्रमंडल, देवघर।
4	निविदा खोलने की तिथि/समय एवं स्थान	30.12.2025 11:00 बजे नोडल पदाधिकारी, ई0 प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, लाईन टैंक रोड, झारखण्ड, रॉची।	06.01.2026 11:00 बजे नोडल पदाधिकारी, ई0 प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, लाईन टैंक रोड, झारखण्ड, रॉची।

सभी शर्ते यथावत् रहेगी।
PR.NO.369371 Building(25-26):D

कार्यपालक अभियंता
भवन प्रमंडल देवघर

भारत सरकार Government of India
भाभा परमाणु अनुसंधान केंद्र
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
मानव संसाधन विकास प्रभाग
Human Resource Development Division

एचबीएनआई, एक मानद विश्वविद्यालय के तत्वावधान में जुलाई-2026 से आरंभ होने वाले परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग के डी.डी.एफ.एस. कार्यक्रम में प्रवेश कर, पी एच डी करने के लिए, इंजीनियरिंग स्नातकोत्तरों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किया जाता है।

Invites applications from Engineering Postgraduates for admission to DAE Doctoral Fellowship Scheme (DDFS) programme of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) for pursuing PhD, commencing from July-2026 under the aegis of HBNI, a Deemed to be University.

चयन एक द्वि-चरणीय प्रक्रिया है: 1. ऑनलाइन कंप्यूटर आधारित परीक्षा (सीबीटी) और स्नातकोत्तर शैक्षणिक रिकॉर्ड के माध्यम से चयन साक्षात्कार के लिए स्क्रीनिंग और 2. चयन साक्षात्कार में प्रदर्शन। **अंतिम चयन केवल चयन साक्षात्कार में योग्यता के आधार पर किया जाएगा।** मैकेनिकल, केमिकल, मेटलर्जिकल/मैटेरियल्स, इलेक्ट्रिकल, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, कंप्यूटर, इंस्ट्रूमेंटेशन और सिविल इंजीनियरिंग में एम.ई/एम.टेक/समकक्ष डिग्री वाले अभ्यर्थियों से केवल ऑनलाइन आवेदन स्वीकार किए जाएंगे। चयनित छात्रों को एचबीएनआई के पांच संघटक संस्थानों (सीआई): भापअ केंद्र (बार्क) मुंबई, आई.जी.सी.ए.आर. कल्पाक्कम, आईपीआर गांधीनगर, आर.आर.सी.ए.टी इंदौर एवं वीईसीसी कोलकाता: में से एक में प्रवेश दिया जाएगा। चयनित छात्रों को **80,000/-** रुपये प्रति माह की अध्येतावृत्ति और **60,000/-** रुपये का वार्षिक आकस्मिक अनुदान दिया जाएगा। डीडीएफएस अभ्यर्थियों (केवल शोध छात्रों) के लिए सीएचएसएस के तहत चिकित्सा लाभ भी उपलब्ध हैं। पीएचडी कार्यक्रम के दौरान छात्रावास में रहना अनिवार्य है।

Selection is a two-step process: 1. Screening in to selection interview through online Computer Based Test (CBT) & post-graduation academic record and 2. Performance in selection interview. **Final selection will be based on the merit of performance in the selection interview only.** Only online applications will be accepted from candidates with M.E./ M.Tech./ Equivalent Degree in Mechanical, Chemical, Metallurgical / Materials, Electrical, Electronics, Computer, Instrumentation & Civil Engineering. Candidates with degrees in IT or MCA are not eligible. The selected students will be admitted to one of the five Constituent Institutions (CIs) of HBNI: BARC Mumbai, IGCAR Kalpakkam, IPR Gandhinagar, RRCAT Indore and VECC Kolkata, based on the research proposals received from the various constituents. The selected students will be awarded Fellowships of ₹80,000/- per month and an annual contingency grant of ₹60,000/-. Medical benefits under CHSS are also available for DDFS fellow only. Hostel accommodation is mandatory during PhD programme.

अर्हता डिग्री: अभ्यर्थियों को भारत का नागरिक होना चाहिए और एम.ई./एम. टेक/समकक्ष डिग्री के साथ-साथ बी.ई./बी. टेक में न्यूनतम 60 प्रतिशत अंक प्रतिशत (या 10.0 या समकक्ष के पैमाने पर न्यूनतम 6.0 सीजीपीए) होने चाहिए। एम.ई./एम. टेक के अंतिम सेमेस्टर के अभ्यर्थी भी आवेदन कर सकते हैं, लेकिन यदि ऐसे अभ्यर्थियों का चयन किया जाता है, तो उन्हें 31 दिसंबर, 2026 तक अपनी मास्टर डिग्री के प्रमाण पत्र और अंक पत्र उपलब्ध कराने होंगे।

Qualifying Degree: Candidates must be an Indian citizen and have minimum 60% Marks (or minimum of 6.0 CGPA on the scale of 10.0 or equivalent) as per the ordinances of the respective university in M.E/M.Tech. / Equivalent Degree as well as B.E./B.Tech. Candidates in the final semester of M.E./M.Tech may also apply but such candidates, if selected, must provide certificates and mark sheets of their Master Degree, by December 31, 2026. **The candidates who have acquired M. Tech. after obtaining the M. Sc. Degree are NOT eligible for DDFS-2026 programme.**

आयु सीमा: 1 अगस्त, 2026 को आयु सीमा 28 वर्ष है अतः सामान्य श्रेणी के अभ्यर्थी का जन्म 1 अगस्त, 1998 को या उसके बाद हुआ होना चाहिए। आयु सीमा में ओबीसी-एनसीएल के लिए तीन वर्ष और एससी/एसटी आवेदकों के लिए पांच वर्ष की छूट है। सभी श्रेणियों के दिव्यांग व्यक्ति (40 प्रतिशत या उससे अधिक दिव्यांग) के लिए 10 वर्ष की अतिरिक्त आयु छूट के लिए पात्र हैं।

Age limit: The age limit is 28 yrs. as on Aug. 1, 2026 and hence should have been born on or after Aug. 1, 1998 for general category. Age limit is relaxable by three years for OBC-NCL and by five years for SC/ST applicants. Persons with Disability (with 40% or more disability) of all categories are eligible for additional age relaxation of 10 years.

ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने के लिए, https://www.barcocesexam.com को देखते रहें।

To Apply Online, visit the website https://www.barcocesexam.com

- ऑनलाइन आवेदन पोर्टल आरंभ होने की तिथि: 22 दिसंबर, 2025
- Launch of Online Application Portal: Dec. 22, 2025*
- स्क्रीनिंग परीक्षा (सीबीटी) : 14 एवं 15 मार्च 2026*
- Screening Examination (CBT): 14th &15th March 2026*
- आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि: 21 जनवरी, 2026*
- Last Date for Online Application: Jan. 21, 2026*
- चयन साक्षात्कार: जून 2026
- Selection Interviews: June 2026*

• सभी तिथियां संभावित तिथियां हैं और अभ्यर्थियों को अद्यतन सूचना के लिए नियमित रूप से https://www.barcocesexam.in वेबसाइट को देखते रहें। All dates are tentative and candidates are required to regularly visit the website https://www.barcocesexam.in for updates.

CBC-48103/12/0009/2526

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Metro Railway, Kolkata

e-Tender is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: **Name of work:** Carrying out of Instrumentation of Metro viaduct in between Dumdum Cantonment station to Jessore Road station of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Approx Cost of Work:** ₹ 1,02,21,660/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,01,100/-. **Completion Period:** 06 (Six) Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 15.01.2026 at 12:00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in**. Amendments/Corrigendum,if any, would be uploaded only on the website.

Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2540-2025-(Open)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client i.e., Sri. Vijay Kumar A. intends to purchase the immovable property situated at Sy. Nos. 54/2 measuring 13 acres 6 guntas, Sy. No. 57/2 totally measuring 4 acres 20 guntas both situated at Kallarikaval Village, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka State and Sy. No. 255/1 measuring 1 acre 15.12 guntas and Sy. No. 255/4 measuring 1 acre 15 guntas both situated at Kalya Village, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka State which is described in the schedule below from its owners Sri. Nanjaiah and Sri. Nataraj Makali:

SCHEDULE

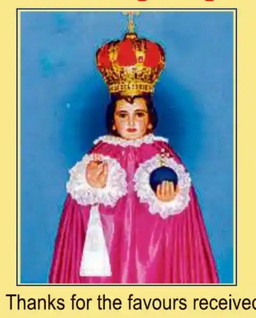
Sy. No.	Extent	Location
Sy. Nos. 54/2	13 acres 6 guntas	Kallarikaval Village, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka State
Sy. No. 57/2	4 acres 20 guntas	
Sy. No. 255/1	1 acre 15.12	Kalya Village, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka State
Sy. No. 255/4	1 acre 15 guntas	

The owners of the land mentioned above i.e., Sri. Nanjaiah and Sri. Nataraj Makali represents that all the piece and parcel of the above property is free from all encumbrances, charges, litigations or claims of whatsoever nature. The owners have further represented that there are no subsisting agreements of sale either written or verbal. Therefore, the above claim or representations of the claimant/owner is denied or disputed by any person/institution/interested adverse Claimant/third party claimants, such denial or dispute or claim shall be intimated to the undersigned within 10 days of this public notice; failing which response, it shall be lawfully construed that my client/nominees has no legal impediments to purchase the above properties or any part thereof as bona fide purchasers and no claims in any manner shall be entertained.

ISSUED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY CLIENTS
SWAROOP SRINIVAS B.A. LL.B., Advocate,
No. 112&113, First Floor, Crescent Road, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 001.
Mob: +91 7760801622 Ph: 080 48525242 Place: Bengaluru Date: 24-12-2025

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving



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◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Kanakadasa Jayanti celebration: Kanakashree Charitable Trust, Kanaka Bhavana, Chandra Layout; 10.30 am.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Endowment Lecture by Tarun Vijay: Thinkers Forum; BMS Engineering College, Basavanagudi; 6.30 pm.

CULTURAL

Book release: K G Subraaya Sharma's 'Jeevanmukti'; Vedanta Satsanga Kendra; Adhyatma Prakasha Branch Office, Thyagarajanagar; 9 am.

Book launch: Sharan Srinivasan and Pratibha Sharan's 'Neuro Justice', NIMHANS Convention Centre; 10 am.

Yakshadegula Sanmana 2025: 'Ekalavya and Ratnavati Kalyana' Yakshagana performance; Dr C Ashwath Kalabhavan, NR Colony; 4 pm.

Professor K Ram Memorial Poetry Meet: Pragya Cultural Center; Akkamahadevi Auditorium, Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Chamarajpet; 4.30 pm.

Bharatanatyam performance: Parshwanath Upadhya and Team; Surabharathi, HRBR Layout; 6.30 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.6°C
Minimum	18.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	54%
Sunset (Dec 25)	6:00 pm
Sunrise (Dec 26)	6:38 am
Moonrise	9:53 am
Moonset	9:44 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

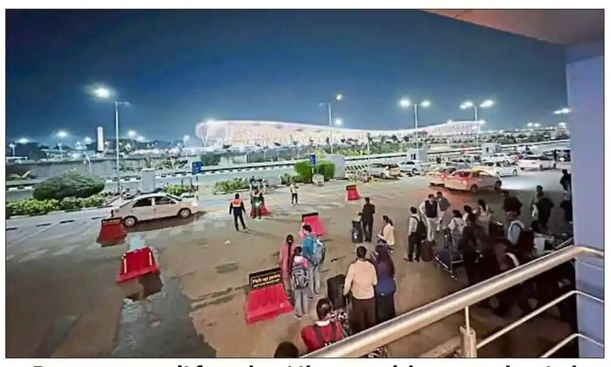
Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-Open Tender Notice No.: S/RWP/GT/E/ 2025-26/02 dated: 20.12.2025. Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the President of India invites online **"e-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in** for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. **SN:** 1. **Tender No.: 02255133A, Short Description of item:** Fairfield W7C Gear Box, **Quantity:** 02 Nos., **Date of Tender Closing/Opening:** 23.01.2026 at 14:00 Hrs. **1.** Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in. 2.** The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including **Addendum/ Corrigendum/Cancellation** with respect to the above tender.

for PCMM/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt/2025-26/90

Resistance grows to new pickup rules at airport's Terminal 1

Online plea seeks pickup areas closer to arrivals



Passengers wait for cabs at the new pickup zone, located about 700 metres from the arrivals, at the Kempegowda International Airport. PHOTO: HAREESH AMJURI

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The new pickup rules at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), especially at Terminal 1 (T1), have been met with resistance from both passengers and cab drivers.

While cab drivers continue to negotiate with authorities and plan further protests, a Hosa Road resident has recently launched a petition, calling on Bangalore International Airport Limited, which operates the airport, to roll back the new pickup rules.

The new rules are not well thought out, believes Hareesh Amjuri, a marketing professional who launched the online campaign on Change.org on Tuesday.

While the campaign is yet to gain traction, several passengers have echoed similar sentiments.

Amjuri, who was travelling from Andhra Pradesh, arrived in Bengaluru last week, unable to locate his taxi driver. "I was waiting at the usual pickup lane near the Arrivals. The driver said he was at P4, but I couldn't find P4 on any of the pickup lane numbers. That's when I realised he was in the parking zone," he said.

As Amjuri walked to the designated parking zone, he noticed people of all ages struggling to carry their luggage and walk the 700-odd metres.

"It got me thinking about how my parents, who are visiting in a week, would have to go through the process. Especially my father, who is a

Parkinson's patient. It also didn't sit right with me that the airport's official social media handle was sharing content stating that 95% were comfortable and accepting of the changes, when that clearly wasn't the reality on the ground," he told *DH*.

"It's disheartening to witness elderly travellers struggling with their baggage, children barely managing the long walk, and pregnant women exerting more energy than necessary after a tiresome journey. There is an urgent need to revisit these rules and bring back the previous pickup point that ensures accessibility and convenience for all passengers... We urge the authorities at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, to consider reopening the previous pick-up areas, which were positioned closer to the arrivals and genuinely catered to the comfort of all individuals using the airport," reads the petition.

Several passengers have also shared similar concerns on and off social media, with many pointing out that the pickup arrangements made at P4 are not being efficiently organised.

Seema Kothari, a passenger travelling from Delhi, noted that while premium services, like Uber Black, have been placed closer to the terminal, buses and other cab aggregators are further away.

"The airport may not have much to do with it, as it would be the aggregator's call to decide which spot they'd like based on how much they're paying. However, this can seriously impact customers' pockets. Booking a cab at the airport is easily 50% more expensive," she said.

BIAL's statement

Since the new rules were introduced on December 11 at T2 and on December 13 at T1, BIAL has stood its ground, stating that the new pickup system follows practices adopted at leading airports globally.

In a statement issued last week, a BIAL spokesperson stated that the progress of the new system would be carefully monitored over the next 30 days to ensure the system stabilises.

'Only 3% cases pending in state consumer forum'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs organised an event to commemorate National Consumer Day on Wednesday.

Speaking at the event, Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs K H Muniyappa stated that of the 2,55,466 cases registered with the consumer forum so far, 2,48,072 had been disposed of. "Only 7,394 or 3% of the cases are pending," he said, adding that they would be looked into soon.

Muniyappa added that the department would soon take steps to appoint the chairman of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum.

Violin concert today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira, in association with Sangeetha Samaya, will present a violin concert by K J Dilip with Anoor Vinod Shyam on mridanga, Sunaad Anoor on khanjira and B R Somashekar Jois on konnakkol at 5.30 pm on Thursday at 9th Main Road, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560070.

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Gruha Lakshmi dues: Ashoka accuses Cong of cheating 1.26 cr beneficiaries

'Where did Rs 5,000 crore of scheme go?'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka slammed the ruling Congress on Wednesday for pending Gruha Lakshmi scheme dues, adding that he would write to the Finance Department on it.

Addressing a news conference, Ashoka explained that the dues for February and March, for which funds were allotted in the previous Budget, hadn't been paid yet.

"You talk of vote chori for days together, what about the chori (theft) of Rs 5,000 crore Gruha Lakshmi funds? If it's not theft, why do you (Women and Child Development Minister) apologise? I will write to the Finance Department seeking information on where these funds went and under what Budget it will be paid."

R ASHOKA
Leader of Opposition in Assembly

"You talk of vote chori for days together, what about the chori (theft) of Rs 5,000 crore Gruha Lakshmi funds? If it's not theft, why do you (Women and Child Development Minister) apologise? I will write to the Finance Department seeking information on where these funds went and under what Budget it will be paid.

Accusing the state government of "cheating" 1.26 crore beneficiaries, the LoP said it was a "major scandal" and that the BJP will fight it out till the beneficiaries get the funds.

Noting that they had "authentic" details of around 8-10 districts, Ashoka said the minister's office had "threatened" departments to not provide details to BJP. He also attacked the Congress for "hurriedly" passing the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, during the just-concluded Winter Session of the Legislature.

"This is a party (Congress) that introduced the Emergency in the country and jailed opposition, media and judges. Because of this Bill, no one can write cartoons and the media cannot expose scandals. This Bill has been brought to target and jail the opposition."

He said the BJP would speak to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot after he returns to Bengaluru and urge him not to sign the Bill.

Taking a dig at the power struggle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar, Ashoka said: "(Mallikarjun) Kharge has said that they should resolve their problem. That means even the Central leadership has realised that your infighting is endless..."

He said the BJP could not discuss issues such as the 'diversion' of the funds under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan Tribal Sub Plan (SCSP/TSP) Act for guarantees, issues of ration card and so on due to the paucity of time in the session.

Stating that 206 elephants had died in the last two-and-a-half years of Congress rule, Ashoka said: "This is the highest in the country. This means there have been more deaths after Siddaramaiah came than during Veerappan's time. That means Veerappan, who killed 500 elephants in 25 years, is better."

HC quashes land acquisition for NICE Road notified 17 years ago

Neither compensation paid nor possession taken: Petitioner

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed the acquisition of one acre at Thalaghattapura for the Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project (BMICP).

Justice K S Hemalekha pointed to an unexplained delay of 17 years in concluding the land acquisition proceedings under the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Act.

Rathna Reddy S owns one acre of land at Thalaghattapura, Uttarahalli hobli, Bengaluru South taluk, and continues in actual physical possession. The land was notified for the BMICP following a preliminary notification on June 14, 2006, and the final notification on October 16, 2008.

Reddy petitioned the High Court against this, contending that although 17 years have passed from the date of final notification, the acquiring authority neither awarded him compensation for the land nor taken possession in accordance with law.

He further submitted that the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning (BMICAP) office had issued an endorsement on June 5, 2025, categorically stating that no ramp, interchange, link alignment or BMICP facility exists or is proposed upon this land.

Reddy cited a contempt petition in the Supreme Court, in which the state government clarified that 554 acres of excess land had already been handed over to the concessionaire, Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Limited, and that no further land would be delivered.

The KIADB and other authorities opposed the petition, stating that Reddy had approached the court 19 years after the preliminary notification and 17 years after the final notification. NICE Ltd submitted the land is indispensable for the construction of a permanent ramp connecting Kanakapura Road (NH-209) to the BMICP peripheral road and that a makeshift temporary ramp is in place only since the petitioner has not delivered possession.

Justice Hemalekha noted that in in the Supreme Court's judgement in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation case, the right of restitution and fair compensation, the right to an efficient and expeditious process, and the right to timely conclusion of proceedings are integral components of constitutional protection under Article 300A.

"In the present case, there is an unexplained delay of 17 years after the final notification and in light of the law declared in the decisions referred above, such prolonged and unexplained dormancy destroys the legality of the acquisition. Added to this is the categorical endorsement by the BMICP Planning Authority dated 05.06.2025 stating that the land is not required for the BMICP. The cumulative effect of the following factors; the absence of any subsisting public purpose; gross and inordinate delay in concluding statutory steps, renders the present acquisition one that cannot be sustained; the earlier BMICP decision does not bar the present challenge," the court said.

Byrathi Basavaraj moves HC for anticipatory bail in murder case

Petition is likely to be heard by a vacation bench on Dec 26

BENGALURU, DHNS

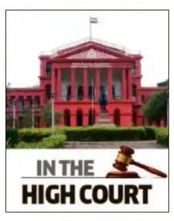
The BJP's K R Pura MLA, Byrathi Basavaraj, has approached the high court seeking anticipatory bail in the Bikla Shiva murder case.

He filed the petition a day after the special court for cases involving MP/MLAs denied him anticipatory bail.

The petition is likely to be heard by a vacation bench on December 26.

Basavaraj claimed he was innocent and even if the allegations made in the complaint are taken at face value, there is no case against him.

Stating that he is a law-abiding citizen, he said he was "falsely implicated" in the case first registered by the Bharathinagar police and later transferred to the CID.



The MLA has alleged "political vendetta," citing efforts to see him "harassed and arrested."

He also stated he had no nexus with the case and that the deceased was a history-sheeter with involvement in various crimes.

"It appears that persons having political vengeance against me have enacted the incident for political gain and in this process have falsely implicated me," Basavaraj stated in his petition.

While rejecting his anticipatory bail application, the special court had observed that a serious allegation of committing murder was levelled against Basavaraj.

It noted that the deceased had filed two complaints against Basavaraj and other accused persons. It further noted that as per the CDR (call record details), Jagadish alias Jagga (accused number 1 in the case) had called Basavaraj immediately after the murder and the tower location indicates that remained in the same place. After this call, Jagadish had fled from the country but was later deported from Sri Lanka, the court had noted.

FAITHFULS' FULL HOUSE

A special mass in progress at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral on Christmas eve, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/MANJUNATH M S

Sirsi to get state's second monkey fever lab, says Dinesh

BENGALURU, DHNS

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Tuesday announced the setting up of a second Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) testing laboratory at Sirsi in Uttara Kannada district.

Due to increased workload at existing laboratory in Shivamogga, the government is setting up a new one in Sirsi and all necessary equipment have been procured. "This lab will begin operations shortly and greatly benefit people from Sirsi and Siddapur regions. It will help in early detection of the disease and in reducing mortality rate to zero," Rao added.

KFD, commonly known as monkey fever, is usually reported in higher numbers between October and June every year, primarily in Shivamogga, Uttara Kannada, Chikkamagaluru and Udupi districts.

This year, preventive testing has been conducted on 1,163 people in Shivamogga, 124 in Chikkamagaluru, 368 in Uttara Kannada and 12 in Udupi.

The disease was detected in 13 people, all of whom have recovered after appropriate treatment.

Kasturba Medical College (KMC), Manipal, Shivamogga Institute of Medical Sciences (SIMS) and Karwar Institute of Medical Sciences (KRIMS) have been identified as referral hospitals.

Training to treat patients has been given to doctors in government hospitals, while treatment facilities have been set up at taluk hospitals in Thirthahalli, Sagar, Siddapur, Honnavar, Koppa and NR Pura.

Patients who recover after receiving treatment in early stages of the disease are continuously monitored by the health department for 21 days.

To ensure zero deaths this season, all KFD patients are provided free ambulance service and complete treatment.

Rao said that the Indian Council of Medical Research was conducting clinical trials of a new vaccine, which may be available to public in the next year.

Gowda made party in BMIC case, says 'forced to fight case at this age'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former prime minister H D Deve Gowda on Wednesday said he had been made party in a writ petition in the Supreme Court regarding BMIC (NICE road) project.

He told a news conference, "Along with me, the government and a few farmers have been added. I don't know what the government will do in this case".

He expressed unhappiness for making him a party and said, "At this age, I have been forced to fight a case by paying to the advocate".

On the pact between NICE (Nanda Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise) and the government, Gowda said Siddaramaiah was the finance minister when the agreement was signed between the government and NICE.

"When I was chief minister, Siddaramaiah was finance minister. The finance department had also given approval for the project. He is well aware about all details of the agreement," he said.

He criticised the government for paying Rs 55 lakh for legal advice in NICE case.

"Despite having advocate general and other legal advisers, the government has appointed another legal adviser for the case," he mentioned.

The former PM said he had written to the CM a year ago about the NICE case and he even got an endorsement to the letter. "As I was advised by legal experts not to speak about NICE project, I was silent all these days," he said.

The case is slated for hearing in the Supreme Court on January 21.

Record number of candidates clear KARTET 2025

BENGALURU, DHNS: Anticipating recruitment to vacant teachers posts in the government-run schools, a record number of candidates have cleared Karnataka Teacher Eligibility Test (KARTET) 2025, the results of which were announced late on Tuesday night.

Compered to previous year, 82,000 more candidates have cleared the test, this year. During the KARTET 2024, the total eligible candidates were 14,616. TET is an eligibility to teach in government schools, and even some private schools and Central schools consider TET.

As per the data available from the Department of School Education and Literacy, since the introduction of teacher eligibility test in the year 2011, the TET 2023 results were the highest with 64,830 candidates clearing it. However, the 2025 results have broken that record with 97,383 candidates passing the test.

According to the Department of School Education and Literacy data, this year a total of 3,16,558 candidates appeared for the test comprising Paper-1 and Paper-2.

Paper-1 is to teach for classes 1 to 5. As many as 79,345 candidates appeared for the test, out of which 29,377 have passed. Meanwhile, Paper-2 is to teach classes 6 to 8 and a total of 2,50,189 registered for the test. Of this, 2,37,163 appeared for the test. Of the 2.37 lakh, 68,006 have cleared the paper.

TET is conducted for 150 marks and those who secure 90 marks are declared as eligible. Only for Urdu subject the test was held for 149 marks.

As per the data, the primary schools have 45,000-plus posts vacant, while in high schools the vacancy is 12,000-plus.

MOVIE R|E|V|I|E|W

Intriguing premise, shaky narrative in Arjun Janya's ambitious multistarrer

PRANATI A S

Well-known music composer Arjun Janya's directorial debut, '45', was eagerly anticipated since he announced it in 2022. The film boasts three big stars, but is hardly an audience pleaser.

Vinay (Raj B Shetty) accidentally runs over a dog, killing it on the spot. The dog, Rosie, happens to be Rayappa's (Upendra) most prized possession. Grieving his pet, whom he calls "mother," he tells Vinay that he will kill him in 45 days.

Parallely, Vinay comes across a documentary about "Garuda Purana", a Sanskrit text. The documentary shows what happens to the soul after the death of the person embodying it — a 45-day journey in purgatory before reaching its final destination. Vinay notices eerie similarities between the documentary and what is happening in his own life, leaving him unsettled.

Although Janya has tried to explore a unique concept, nowhere does the 150-minute film feel like an original. The scenes feel way too familiar — and look inspired by various Hollywood movies and Korean dramas. And by the end, it leaves you emotionally untouched.

'45' is a directorial debut of well-known music composer Arjun Janya.

'45' is billed as a visually rich film with VFX "amplified by an Oscar-winning team from Hollywood." Unfortunately, the visual effects are underwhelming, and, in several places, outright shabby. The background score is excessively loud for most of the runtime, and the songs are just passable. Music and sound, being Arjun Janya forte, fail to leave a lasting impression.

Shivarajkumar's character, Shivappa, looks fully "inspired" by Korean fantasy dramas. His costumes, antics, and the "know-it-all" sweet face will perhaps remind you of the Goblin in "Guardian." And Upendra's performance is similar to what he did in "UI," which he also wrote and directed. None of the stars, including Raj, are at their best. The supporting characters (Pramod Shetty and Rajendran's characters for example) are half baked. The extremely long action sequences make no sense and the sets look artificial.

A mass commercial film reportedly made on a Rs 80 crore budget and featuring three stars fails to deliver even a technically sound experience, let alone a progressive or thought-provoking one.

★★½☆☆
45

Director: Arjun Janya

Cast: Upendra, Raj B Shetty, Shivarajkumar

DH Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

CORRIGENDUM
Further to the advertisement of inviting application for the staff recruitment in our entity published on 24.12.2025 in **Deccan Herald daily, Classifieds Page No. 4,** the education qualification of the post shall be read as **BA / MA, B.Ed.,** & No change in the rest of matter.
Secretary/President
SOPHIA KANNADA HIGH SCHOOL, K.G.Halli,
Bangalore-560045.

PUBLIC NOTICE
BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that our client Smt. S.E.KUSUMANJALI, Aged about 65 years, W/o. N. Shivakumar No. 91, 17th Cross, 14th Main, 4th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore-560102 intended to acquire the under mentioned schedule Property from its owner Smt. K SUDHA, W/o. Shylendra Babu Reddy, Aged about 50 Years, R/at. No. 830, Ground Floor, 5th C Cross, HRBR Layout, Bengaluru – 560043
The public is hereby informed that any person/s having any manner of right/s, claim/s, charge/s, objection/s against the under mentioned Schedule Property or any part thereof or in any manner affecting the rights of the Schedule property may notify the undersigned within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice along with documentary proof in support of the same failing which our client shall proceed to purchase the schedule property and our client will complete the transaction. No claim shall be entertained thereafter.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE Absolute owner and in possession of the Immovable residential property bearing **BDA Site No. 5C - 830,** having **BBMP PID No. 027-W0108-27, E-Khatha No. 6595662655,** Situated in the layout formed by the Bengaluru Development Authority, Bengaluru Block-I, HENNUR ROAD, Banaswadi Road, Extension (H R B R Layout), measuring East to West – 12.20 Meters and North to South – 17-80 Meters, and totally measuring 217.16 Square meters Together with building standing there on, consisting with Stilt Floor, Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor, in all consisting of 54.5 Squares, RCC Sheet house together with Vitrified Tiles Flooring, Doors and Windows made of Jungle Wood and Steel and Electrical, water and sanitation connections, with all the appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:- **East by :** Site bearing No. 5C-832; **West by :** Site bearing No. 5C-828; **North by :** 5th Cross Road; **South by :** Site bearing No. 4BC-827.
Dated: 25.12.2025
Bangalore-560 053.
Sd/- **M/s. Yuktha Legal,**
Bangalore: Advocates & Solicitors,
403, 4th Floor, Victory Avenue,
16, Hospital Road, Bangalore-560053.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
My client is intending to purchase the property morefully described in the schedule herein below from **(i) Imran Ahmed, (ii) Saleha Mubeen, (iii) Faseeha Marium,** as they claim that they are the absolute owners in possession of the Schedule Property, and the same is free from all encumbrances, charges, claims, or demands of whatsoever nature.
Any person/s having any type of objections to the said transaction may lodge their objection/s supported by cogent documents with the undersigned within **FIFTEEN DAYS (15)** from the date of this publication. If no objection/s is/are raised within the said period, my client would go ahead with the sale transaction in respect of the Schedule Property below mentioned deeming there is/are no objection/s from whomsoever and of whatsoever nature.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All That Piece And Parcel of Immovable Residential House Property No.878, Binnamangala II Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru – 560038, measuring East to West 30' Feet and North to South 40 feet together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever weather underneath or above the surface and bounded on:
East By: Site No.877 **West By:** Private Property, **North By:** Site No.863, **South By:** Road;
Nayan Bichali
Associate Advocate
Sreevatsa Associates
No.50, II Stage, Indiranagar,
Bengaluru - 560 038.
91-80-25252898, 25297715, 25295506

PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, C.PRASANTHA Kumar S/o late N.K. Chandra Prakash aged about 39 Years residing at Post office Road Nangali village, Byrakur Hobli, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District. Have changed my name to C.Prashanth Kumar vide affidavit dated 24.12.2025 before Notary B Nagaraja Mulbagal. Henceforth I shall be called as C.Prashanth Kumar only .

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ROY ANIRBAN APARNA residing at Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru-560064, have changed my name to **ANIRBAN ROY** vide affidavit dated 22/12/2025, before notary Mir Zia Ulla, HBR Layout, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **ANIRBAN ROY** only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MANJUNATH LAXMAN VERNEKAR S/o Laxman Vernekar, R/a No. 10, Old No. 41, 1st Floor, 1st 'A' Cross, Mount Joy Extension, Hanumanthanagar, Gavipuram Extension Post, Bengaluru-560 019. have changed my name from **MANJUNATH VERNEKAR to MANJUNATH LAXMAN VERNEKAR** Vide affidavit dated 23-12-2025 Sworn before Notary H.G. Venkataramu, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Nikita S Avadhani,** residing at No. 294, 1st Floor, 13th Cross, 2nd Stage, Sub-Registrar Office, Mahalaxmipuram Layout, Mahalaxmi Layout, Bengaluru-560086, have changed my name to **NIKITA AVADHANI** vide affidavit dated 24.12.2025 before notary Deepa M, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **NIKITA AVADHANI** only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANITHA ANTHONY VIJAYA** residing at # 4, Artillery Road, Deena Bandhu Nagar, Bengaluru- 560008 have changed my name to **ANITHA** vide affidavit dated 15/12/2025, before notary S.I.Balaguru, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **ANITHA** only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Ankur Kumar,** residing at No. HA502, Salarpuria Sattva Greenage Apartments, Next to Oxford College, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560 068, have changed my name to **ANKUR KUMAR GUPTA** vide affidavit dated 16.12.2025 before notary Dharani P, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **ANKUR KUMAR GUPTA** only

SUDHA #136, APMC Fruits Market Road, Singena Agrahara, Bengaluru-99, Have changed my name to SUDHA M Vide affidavit dated. 24/12/2025 .....

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Kumar Dalawai** S/o Dalawai Perumal Reddy, Resident at No. 17, Sai Krupa, 5th Main Road, Ganapathipura, Near Khoday's Lake, Konnanakunte, Doddakallasandra Post, Bengaluru-560062, have changed my name to **KUMAR DALAVAI** vide affidavit dated 24.12.2025 before notary Mamatha N.K., Bengaluru.

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Lokayukta raids minister Zameer's personal secretary

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Lokayukta police on Wednesday conducted raids on properties linked to Sarfaraz Khan, the personal secretary of minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, in connection with a disproportionate assets case.

The raids were carried out simultaneously at 10 locations, including a residence in Halasuru in Bengaluru. Lokayukta teams searched five houses belonging to Sarfaraz Khan in different parts of the city, as well as resorts in Madikeri, to verify documents and records.

The action is part of an investigation into the alleged accumulation of assets disproportionate to known sources of income. Further scrutiny of seized documents to further investigations.

Deve Gowda likens Congress leadership tussle to 'street circus'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former prime minister H D Deve Gowda on Wednesday criticised the leadership tussle between the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar as political "Dombarata" (a kind of street circus).

Responding to the media queries, Deve Gowda said, "The daily development reminds me of the Dombarata performed in rural areas. I have not done so many pujas that Shivakumar is performing, and Siddaramaiah cannot perform".

The JD(S) supremo said that Rahul Gandhi knows only to talk about the vote chori. "He is is not aware of Valmiki Corporation funds siphoned off to Telangana," he added.

Two major conventions, Gowda informed that JD(S) will hold two major conventions, one at Hassan and another in Bagalkot region.

"We are planning to organise a convention between January 23 and 25. I have informed about this to Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy. These conventions will highlight the failures of the state government," Deve Gowda said.

In-principle nod for preparing Bedthi–Varada river linking DPR

Centre to spend Rs 9k cr; K'taka to bear 1k cr project cost

A view of River Varada near Devagiri in Haveri district. DH FILE PHOTO

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday said that Karnataka has given in-principle approval for the Centre's proposal for the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Bedthi–Varada (Hirevaddatti) intra-state link project.

Of the total project cost of Rs 10,000 crore, the Centre will spend Rs 9,000 crore while the remaining Rs 1,000 crore will be spent by the state, he told reporters here.

The National Water Development Authority (NWDA) of the Jal Shakti Ministry will prepare the DPR for the project. This project will help transfer water from a west-flowing basin to the drought-prone eastern parts of the state, Shivakumar, who also holds the water resources portfolio, said.

He attended a special committee meeting on interlinking of rivers under the chairmanship of Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil here on Tuesday. To a question on protests for this project, he said that under this project, water will be used within the state only, and it will benefit the dry region of the state.

The Bedthi-Varada river linking project aims to divert 18 tmcft surplus water from the west-flowing Bedthi basin (Sirsi/Yellapur region) to the drought-prone eastern side (Gadag, Koppal, Raichur) via tunnels and canals, linking it to the Varada river for irrigation under the Tungabhadra Project command.

While projects benefit from irrigating arid areas, environmental groups raise concerns about impacts on the Western Ghats' biodiversity and downstream ecosystems. The project faced opposition from people of the Uttara Kannada district.

Shivakumar said he has sought the pre-feasibility report from the Ministry of Jal Shakti about the Aghanashini–Vedavati intra-State link for further examination.

Noting that Karnataka has not been allocated a reasonable share under the Godavari–Cauvery link, Shivakumar said, "Under phase 1, about 148 tmcft of water is proposed to be diverted. Against this, Karnataka has been allocated only about 15.90 tmcft. In contrast, other beneficiary states have been allocated substantially higher quantities, including for irrigation."

"Even when the proposed allocation of 18.50 tmcft under the Bedthi–Varada intra-State link is added, Karnataka's total benefit works out to only about 34.40 tmcft, which still does not place the state on par with other beneficiary states," he said.

Insisting that Karnataka is one of the driest and water-starved states in the country, the deputy chief minister said the benefits of river linking truly reach the most drought-affected regions, in the spirit of equity and fairness. Though in the Krishna (Almatti)–Pennar link, about 55 tmcft of water is proposed to be diverted, Karnataka has been allocated only about 9.60 tmcft. This allocation also does not adequately correct the historical imbalances arising from earlier tribunal awards, he said

Shivakumar demanded that the entire proposed diversion under the Krishna (Almatti)–Pennar link be considered for utilisation within Karnataka, to meet the irrigation and drinking water needs of the severely drought-prone regions.

K'taka student secures 100 percentile in CAT

BENGALURU DHNS: A student from Karnataka has secured a perfect 100 percentile in the Common Admission Test (CAT), the results of which were announced on Wednesday. He is one among the 12 candidates to top the test.

CAT is a gateway for admissions to the Indian Institute of Managements (IIMs) and other top B-schools in the country. Identity of the top scorers has not been revealed yet.

Of the top 12 scorers 10 were male and two were female candidates. Among those, three are from engineering stream and 9 from non-engineering stream.

A press release stated that 26 candidates (22 males and four females), have secured 99.99 percentile score. Similarly a total of 26 including one from Karnataka have secured 99.98 percentile.

The CAT-2025 was conducted on November 30, 2025 at 339 exam centres in 170 cities across the nation. Out of the 2.95 lakh registered candidates, 1.10 lakh were females, 1.85 lakh were males, and nine were transgender candidates.

The release further stated that, IIMs will release their shortlists for subsequent admission processes based on the CAT-2025 scores and other criteria specific to each IIM's Admissions policies. "93 non-IIM institutions will also use CAT-2025 scores this year for admission into their management programmes. The details of non-IIM institutions registered with CAT-2025 can be found on the website."

SBI ATM officer booked for misappropriating Rs 1.25 cr

HUMNABAD (BIDAR DISTRICT), DHNS: The Humnabad police have booked SBI Bidar regional ATM channel manager Praveen Kumar on charges of misappropriating Rs 1.25 crore from Humnabad SBI branch.

Based on the complaint lodged by Humnabad bank manager Raghunath K L, the police have booked the officer for criminal breach of trust, PSI Suresh Kumar told *DH*. Whenever a cash officer or other SBI officials goes on a leave, Praveen Kumar was made in-charge in Bidar district. Accordingly, the officer in question was made in-charge of Humnabad SBI branch. The officer misappropriated Rs 1.25 crore from the account of the said bank, the PSI said, quoting the complaint.

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ
ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
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ಫೋನ್: 080–27834655, E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_bommasandra@yahoo.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:TMCB/ENG/MF/TR06/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.12.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

(ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ) ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿರುವ **04 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 107.80 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ** ಐಟಂವಾರು ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಏಕಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.01.2026ರ ಸಮಯ 17:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.01.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ (**itstaff_ulb_bommasandra@yahoo.com**) ಅಥವಾ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಕಿರಿಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು/
ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ.

ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/4668/2025–26

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama" Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka State

No: NoVTU/BGM/RE/2025-26 /IFT No.113 /5023 Date: 24-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
Two Cover System (KPP Portal Only)

The e-Tender is invited induplicate from eligible tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi-18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the work of **Furnishing of 1st Floor Seminar Hall in the New Class Room Complex at UBDT, College of Engineering Davangere amounting to Rs.1,66,04,441/- (Excluding GST).** Other details log on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **24-12-2025.**

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/1534/Adverto/2025-26

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Marathalli Division,
Bellandur main road, Bellanduru, Bengaluru - 560103

No: BECC/EE/MRH/TN/04/2025-26 Date: 23-12-2025

QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

Interested agencies/firm/contractors shall quote the rates for below mentioned work.

The Executive Engineer, Marathalli Division, BECC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BECC invites Quotations for the following work.

Road sweeping by providing mechanical sweeper either truck mounted or self propelled for length not less than 40.00 kilometers per day is to be provided by any interested agencies / firm / contractors for a period of not less than 3 years. The machine to be deployed shall be fitted with extended arm of length not less than 2.00 meter on either side for sweeping the road/footpath under given circumstances. The machine shall be fitted with water tanker of capacity not less than 250 ltrs.The sweeping width is not less than 3.00 meter. The rate for cleaning for 1.00 kilometer is to be quoted. (The rate quoted shall be inclusive of vehicle hire charges, fuel charges, operation and maintenance charges, disposal of debris/silt/dust and wages of driver and helper as the case may be) The quoted rate shall be inclusive of all applicable taxes. Period : **36 Months**

Interested firms shall submit the proposal through online in the website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Calendar of events: (1) Last Date & submission of rates: **29-12-2025 Upto 4:00 P.M. (2)** Date & Time for Opening of bid: **31-12-2025 at 4.00 P.M.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Zone-1, BECC

Command Area Development Authority
Cauvery Basin Project-Mysuru
O/o Executive Enngineer, No.02 Division, CADA, CBP
Vijayanagara 1" Stage, Mysuru-17
Ph. No: 0821-2414090, email-eecada2mysore@gmail.com

No: EE/CADA2/Mys/T-18/2025-26 **Date: 23.12.2025**

Short-Term Tender Notification
(Through KPP Portal only)

On behalf of the Administrator, CADA, CBP, Mysore, The Executive Engineer. CADA No.2 Division, CBP, Mysuru has invited tender in Two Tender Document system for **01 Atchkat Road work in Mysore Taluk** and **01 Atchkat Road work in T Narsipura Taluk** as per Standard Tender Document KW-4 from eligible tenderers through KPPP Portal. Interested bidders may access bidding documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during working hours. The tenderers can download the tender documents from 23.12.2025. The last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid is **06.01.2026 upto 4:00 PM.** Date of opening of Technical Bid is **07.01.2026, onwards** and Financial Bid will be opened after obtaining approval of Technical Bid from competent Authority. For more Condition & details Visit the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Note: If there are any corrections/ modifications, it will be published only through KPP Portal.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
No.02 Division, CADA, CBP, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYS/1423/SA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ನಂ:ಕಾಇಂ:ಲೋ.ಇ:ಮಂವಿ: ಸ.ಇಂ–1/2/3: ಟೆಂಡರ್
ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ: 2025–2026 ದಿನಾಂಕ:23–12–2025.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ :– ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ.
ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:– ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 11/2025–2026 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.12.2025 ಕ್ಕೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ.
ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿದನ್ವಯ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.2 ಮತ್ತು 36 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಣ್ ತಪ್ಪಿನಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆಗೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದಕಾರಣ ಸದರಿ ಎರಡು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಬಿಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಮುಂದುವರೆದು ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 39 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯು ಮುದ್ರಣ ದೊಷದಿಂದಾತಿ ತಪ್ಪಾಗಿ ಮುದ್ರಿತಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಬದಲು ವೃತ್ತ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡಿರುವ "ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಲೋಕಾಯುಕ್ತ ಪೋಲೀಸ್ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ" ಯನ್ನಾಗಿ ಓದಿಕೊಳ್ಳತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.
ಉಳಿದಂತೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Tel : 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax: 080 22215602

No: DYES/ES/AP/166/2025-26 **Date: 22.12.2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Subject:- The Deputy Director (Admin), Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender to take up the following below works;

Particulars : 1) Acoustics repair, light repair and room upgrade works at Sri Kanteerava Indoor Stadium, Bengaluru (Category Reserved - SC) Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 83.13 Lakhs** EMD : **Rs 83,134/-.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **06.01.2026 time 16.00 Hrs,** Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **07.01.2026 time 17.30 Hrs. 2)** Procurement of Electronic Shooting Targets for Mahatma Gandhi District Stadium, Tumkuru District. Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 17.85 Lakhs** EMD : **Rs 44,625/-.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **07.01.2026 time 16.00 Hrs,** Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **08.01.2026 time 17.30 Hrs. 3)** Providing RCC slabs for drains, Fencing, Ball stopper at Surrounding Hockey Court Construction of RCC Retaining wall behind Sports Hostel and Renovation of water supply sprinkler system of Hockey Turf Court & other various maintenance works at Akkithimmanahalli Hockey Stadium, Bangalore. Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 328.86 Lakhs** EMD : **Rs 4,93,291/-.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **08.01.2026 time 17.00 Hrs,** Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **09.01.2026 time 17.30 Hrs.**

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.

Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin)
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/4656/ZEN/2025-26

BJP sweeps TP polls, wins 47 out of 76 wards

BENGALURU, DHNS/PTI

The BJP on Wednesday swept the elections held to four town panchayats in Karnataka, which the party termed as a clear rejection of the Congress government's "failures and misgovernance" in the state.

The BJP won 47 of the total 76 wards in - Bashettihalli (Bengaluru Rural district), Bajpe (Dakshina Kannada), Kinnigoli (Dakshina Kannada), and Manki (Uttara Kannada) town panchayats, as per the State Election Commission release. The party has also won bypolls held for one ward each - at a City Municipal Council in Bengaluru Rural district, and at a town panchayat in Raichur district, respectively. The elections were held on December 21.

The ruling Congress won only 23 wards, JD(S) in one, SDPI 3 and others 2, the release said.

The BJP also won bypolls held for Doddaballapura City Municipal Council (Bengaluru Rural) and Turvihala town panchayats (Raichur).

THE RESULTS

District	Town Panchayat	Seats	Cong	BJP	JD(S)	SDPI	Ind
Bangalore Rural	Bashettihalli	19	3	14	1	0	1
Dakshina Kannada	Bajpe	19	4	11	0	3	1
	Kinnigoli	18	8	10	0	0	0
Uttara Kannada	Manki	20	8	12	0	0	0
TOTAL		76	23	47	1	3	2

Hailing BJP's victory in the four town panchayats and two ward byelections, BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) B L Santosh said on X (formerly Twitter): "@BJP4India continues its winning streak in local body elections across country. Today it is Congress under @INCIndia rule with ballot paper. Team @BJP4Karnataka under State President Sri @BYVijayendra wins all 4 Town Panchayats & 2 ward by elections convincingly."

When *DH* reached out to Karnataka State Election Commission, sources explained that the elections to the town panchayat elections were held through Electronic Voter Machines (EVMs) itself. Only the gram panchayat elections were held through ballot papers, sources added.

BJP State President B Y Vijayendra also took to X, terming the verdict a reflection of people's 'clear rejection' of Congress government's 'failures and misgovernance' in Karnataka.

"Even in Bhatkal, represented by a minister from @INCKarnataka (Mankal Vaidya), voters decisively rejected the ruling party, underscoring the strong anti-incumbency sentiment across the state," Vijayendra said, adding that the results indicated the 'shifting political mood' in Karnataka and the 'growing momentum' in favour of the BJP.

'Raise e-khata plaints on helpline, avoid office visits'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Following concerns over e-khata issuance, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil has asked citizens to raise complaints on the GBA helpline 94806 83695.

"Each case is escalated to concerned ARO/Officer via Sahaya - GBA/Bengaluru City Corporations internal grievance tracking system. Everyday morning, I personally follow up with all 64 AROs to ensure that the referred cases are disposed of," he said in a statement.

Moudgil further said that the GBA had implemented a 'First In First Out' system to process e-khata applications and that applications would be disposed of in a sequence based on when they are filed.

The GBA has urged citizens to stick to the online system to apply for e-khata, raise grievances and avoid visiting the offices.

Citizens can check the status of their e-khata application at https://bbmpeaasthi.karnataka. gov.in/citizen_core/Final_ eKhatha_Status_based_on_ePID

Junior technician films women colleagues changing in hosp OT, arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: A junior technician at a private hospital has been arrested for secretly filming his female colleagues while they were changing clothes in the Operating Theatre (OT).

Shuvendu Mohata (23), hailing from West Bengal, had been working at the multi-speciality hospital for the past year. He allegedly kept his phone to record videos of women staff while they were changing clothes in OT, where access is restricted to authorised personnel. He would later take the phone out when everyone was away.

On Monday morning, women staff noticed him behaving suspiciously inside the unit. Someone saw him seeing the videos on his phone and complained to the hospital management.

Following a preliminary verification, hospital director Dr Chetan B H lodged a formal complaint with the police. Police arrested Mohata and seized his phone, which contained several recorded videos. They are now examining whether he had shared or stored the footage elsewhere. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Information Technology Act, police said.

Top cop inspects NY revelry hubs, roads shut for traffic

BENGALURU, DHNS

City police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh rode pillion on a two-wheeler Wednesday evening to inspect preparations for New Year's celebrations in and around MG Road.

Singh, along with other police officers, set off from Trinity Circle at 6 pm, passed through Cauvery Emporium junction, Brigade Road, Church Street, Anil Kumble Circle, MG Road and Brigade Road before concluding at Opera House Junction.

The commissioner inspected areas where crowds are expected for celebrations on New Year's Eve. Roads were temporarily closed for traffic during this period.

Police officers ride motorcycles during peak hours for an inspection, ahead of New Year's Eve celebrations, on Brigade Road in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

How Gadchiroli Maoists are turning to work after surrender

Former ultras work at steel plant to eke out a living

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
GADCHIROLI (MAHARASTHTRA), DHNS

Early in the morning, there is hustle and bustle in the Navjeevan Colony near the Gadchiroli district headquarters. A group of men and women are getting ready for work.

They get into a bus that passes through dense forests to take them 60 km away to a high-tech modern steel plant of Lloyds Metal and Energy Ltd (LMEL) in Konsari in the Chamorshi tehsil. They will work here till the evening before returning to the Gadchiroli tehsil town.

Once Maoists, they have exited the movement and joined the mainstream as part of the Maharashtra government's surrender-cum-rehabilitation policy. Bordering Telangana and Chhattisgarh, the Gadchiroli district was once a Maoist hotbed; now only a handful of them remain.

More than 70 surrendered Maoists now work in the Konsari plant in shifts.

Among them is Suresh Chamru Hichami, who is in his 40s. "I joined in 1999 and left in 2007," said Hichami, a courier during his Maoism days.

"My sister married a policeman. They started suspecting me. I thought it was better to join the mainstream.... Now, I work and lead a normal life," he said.

Govinda Samji Atla, now in his 30s, joined the Maoists in his teens. "I underwent training, was given a uniform... I handled carbines and AK-47s. After a few years, I thought this was not leading me anywhere. I came back and now lead a normal life," he said.

More than 70 surrendered Maoists now work in the high-tech modern steel plant of Lloyds Metal and Energy Ltd (LMEL) in Konsari in the Chamorshi tehsil.

Janu Sainu Hedu, who works in a canteen, said: "I did many duties while I was part of the Maoist movement." She added that circumstances and health issues led her to join the mainstream.

Over the past year, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who is also the state's home minister, has personally urged Maoists to surrender and return to the mainstream.

Meanwhile, LMEL Managing Director B Prabhakaran is said to have consistently focused on local employment generation and skill development. The company implemented a skill-based rehabilitation model, where participants were trained at the Lloyds Skill Development and Training Centre in Konsari before joining the company's workforce.

Gadchiroli Collector Avishyant Panda said Left Wing Extremism (LWE) would be a thing of the past.

"There is a sense of security among the locals. A lot of Maoists have surrendered. Many are working in the Lloyds plant. In fact, the LMEL has committed that it will take in more people if needed," he said.

Gadchiroli's Superintendent of Police Neelotpal said the surrender of CPI (Maoist) Politburo member and Malloujula Venugopal Rao alias Sonu aka Bhupathi, who called the shots along the Chhattisgarh-Maharashtra-Telangana Red Corridor, was a major turning point.

Breast cancer awareness, fitness in focus at Bhumika Club event

The 14th Bengaluru edition of Bhumika Club, presented by Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils and powered by Manipal Hospitals, was held last weekend. Bhumika Club, an initiative of Prajavani and Deccan Herald, is a forum where women from different streams come together to interact on issues of relevance and significance. The focus in this edition, inaugurated by Ravindra Bhat, Executive Editor, Prajavani, was on breast cancer awareness and fitness.

Speaking to the audience, Dr Poonam Patil, Consultant - Medical Oncology, Immunotherapy and Precision Medicine, elaborated on breast cancer – the most common form of cancer often seen in the 35-50 age group. Highlighting the importance of screening, she stated the survival rate is very high if the cancer is detected and treated early.

While most lumps occurring in the breasts are benign, it is crucial for women over 20 years of age to observe their breasts and underarms for unusual changes. Self- examination revealing lumps, thickening in the breast or underarm with no pain, changes in the shape or size of breast, any discharge, nipples turning inwards or any sort of pain that persists needs to be immediately evaluated by a specialist. The key to effective treatment of breast cancer is in early detection – when it is still at an early stage.

Manipal Hospitals' comprehensive cancer centre offers comprehensive cancer care through a coordinated multidisciplinary team, encompassing screening and accurate diagnosis to advanced imaging, surgery, chemotherapy, targeted therapy, hormone therapy, immunotherapy, newer precision oncology drugs and radiation therapy to deliver end-to-end cancer management under one roof.

After the informative and enlightening talk by Dr Poonam Patil, Zumba instructor Chandana Lakshmikanth spoke on the importance of fitness. Age is no bar and anyone can make Zumba a part of their fitness regimen, she said.

Dr Poonam Patil throws light on breast cancer.

The Bhumika Club get-together also delighted the audience with interactive sessions and prizes for participants. Students from Padmini Priya Nruthya Kala Academy presented a Bharatanatyam recital and singer Anagha M sang some popular Kannada songs. Stand-up comedian Varshini regaled the audience with humour to complete an entertaining event.

The gathering at Bhumika Club.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Love to be ordinary party worker than hold position: DKS

NEW DELHI, DHNS: "I love to remain an ordinary worker of the party. I want to work without any post or position," Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has said.

Shivakumar said this while speaking to mediapersons here on Wednesday.

When asked whether he was happy to continue as deputy chief minister for the entire five-year term, he said, "I love to be a party worker more than holding any position. I have been a party worker since 1980, and I will continue to be one". He said during his tour to the national capital, he did not want to meet any top leader of the party.

About speculation of a possible change of leadership in the state after Sankranti, the Vokkaliga leader said, "Where is the speculation? It is only in the media. There is no such speculation either in government or party". To a question about whether he was holding meetings with MLAs, he said in politics, meeting people was part of the profession.

"We keep meeting people, whether it is mediapersons, politicians, party workers, industrialists or bureaucrats. No need to attach anything special to it".

Reacting to former minister K N Rajanna's letter to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleging that poor poll management by Shivakumar cost the party some seats in last year's Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka, the deputy chief minister said, "I have a lot to learn about management of elections".

On preparations by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's followers to hold an Ahinda rally in Mysuru soon, the state Congress president said, "I wish good luck to everyone".

'Kharge, Rahul my leaders'

Amid reports over Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi being pitched as the party's prime ministerial face over her brother Rahul Gandhi, Shivakumar dismissed such speculations, saying Rahul will be his and his party workers' leader.

He brushed aside such aspirations on Priyanka's part, saying she was dedicated to making her brother the prime minister.

"I am not aware of these issues. My leader is AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and my leader of the Opposition is Rahul Gandhi. They are at the helm of affairs and function on the guidance of Sonia Gandhi. No names should be speculated. The party will take a decision. Priyanka's only motive is to make Rahul the PM," he said.

Ex-chief secy, HC judges among...

E-khata, from Page 1

In the Jayanagar resident's case, officials observed that the rejection was done on false grounds despite the applicant uploading the absolute sale deed and all required documents. Following this, senior officials have suspended the revenue officer and the zonal deputy commissioner involved in the matter.

"Though there is a system where applications rejected by assistant revenue officers have to be checked by revenue officers and further by the deputy commissioner, rejections for genuine applications have continued. Citizens are unnecessarily being harassed," a senior official said. The sources said senior officials feel there is a need for exemplary action against erring officials since they were bringing a bad name to the GBA. During a recent media interaction, GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said special surveillance teams will scrutinise the rejected applications and fast-track the processing of applications.

The government has been pushing citizens to get e-khatas for their properties and the GBA is also planning to set up passport service-style seva kendras to help citizens get their e-khata without much difficulty.

Govt fixes Rs 1.5 cr per liquor permit in B'luru

Liquor, from Page 1

Of the 569 licences that will be auctioned, 477 are for retail shops. Bidding for almost all licences available in Bengaluru will start from Rs 1.5 crore. Some licences in Belagavi and Ballari have a base price of Rs 1.1 crore.

The lowest base price is Rs 70 lakh for licences available in places like Honnavar (Uttara Kannada), Tirthahalli (Shivamogga) and Shiggaon (Haveri). There are 92 bar & restaurant licences that will be auctioned. All of them have a base price of Rs 1.1 crore to Rs 1.5 crore. The government expects bidding to go up to Rs 3 crore per licence in Bengaluru.

Auctioned licences will be valid for five years (up to 2030). The online auction will be conducted on portal of public sector undertaking MSTC Ltd -- www.mstcecommerce.com

Live bidding for the licences will start from January 13 to 20. The excise department has started registration of bidders. Training for bidders will be provided up to January 7.

Woman sexually abused on road after rejecting man's proposal

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 21-year-old woman was allegedly sexually harassed in public in front of her PG accommodation after she rejected a man's proposal.

A video of the incident went viral on Wednesday while police stated that they have arrested the suspect, identified as 29-year-old Naveen Kumar from Billamaranahalli, Yelahanka.

A senior police officer said Kumar drove up in a car and pulled up outside the woman's PG in Jnanajyothinagar on Ullal Main Road around 3.20 pm on December 22.

The victim was about to ride pillion on her roommate's scooter. He then allegedly caught hold of her in the middle of the road, touched her inappropriately and tried to tear her clothes, despite her screaming for help, the officer said, citing her complaint.

Passersby called the police but Kumar fled before cops arrived.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Kumar had come in contact with the woman, who worked as a telecaller at a real-estate firm, a year ago. They got in touch through Instagram. Kumar later began pressuring her to accept his love proposal. As she spurned him, he allegedly started stalking her and repeatedly turning up near her PG accommodation.

The victim lodged a complaint at the Jnanabharathi police station, following which an FIR was registered and Kumar arrested. A court has remanded him in judicial custody.

Darshan's wife lodges plaint over 'abusive' social media posts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has opened a case after murder-accused Kannada film star Darshan Thoogudeepa's wife Vijayalakshmi alleged that she was subjected to "obscene" comments and messages on social media following a public event.

In her police complaint, Vijayalakshmi stated that she had attended an event to celebrate the success of Kannada film *The Devil* in Davangere.

She, along with film crew, addressed the gathering. She spoke about her husband and his acting career, and mentioned that people should not be disturbed by what others say.

But following the programme, she alleged, some individuals posted "obscene and abusive" comments and sent messages targeting her and her family on social media. She said the comments were "derogatory in nature, causing damage to her reputation and mental distress".

On Wednesday, Vijayalakshmi met senior officials at the city police commissioner's office and sought proceedings against those who are operating fake social media accounts that posted the offensive content.

She shared screenshots and links from 18 social media accounts, including those operating under the handles "Yogi Kichcha", "Mr Anath", "Mahi Kichcha" and "Virat Kichcha". Based on her complaint, the CCB's cybercrime police have registered a case.

सीएसआईआर - राष्ट्रीय वांतरिक्ष प्रयोगशालाएं
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
NATIONAL AEROSPACE LABORATORIES
पी बी सं. 1779, एचएएल एयरपोर्ट रोड, कोडिहल्ली, बेंगलूरु – 560 017
P B No. 1779, HAL Airport Road, Kodihalli, Bengaluru - 560017. India
ISO:9001:2015 Certified

ADVT. No. 15/2025

CSIR-NAL invites talented persons possessing required qualification for Aircraft Fuselage Jig Design for a walk- in-interview on 02.01.2026.

For complete details of advertisement and walk-in-interview schedule, please visit www.nal.res.in.

Sd/-
Sr. Controller of Administration

KARNATAKA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD, KRISHIPETE
SRI R.B.MAMALE DESAI SMARAK BHAVAN,
BHAIRIDEVAR KOPPA, HUBBALLI - 25
E-mail: gmpp@rediffmail.com, ksamb@rediffmail.com :
(0836) 2375078/ 2373726
No: KSAMB/ KP / ACS / 468 / 2025-26 Date: 24-12-2025

e-TENDER CUM-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Agricultural Marketing Board's KRISHIPETE is inviting e-tender / e-bidding / e-auction through e-procurement portal from Nationalized & Regional Rural Banks for placing of Rs.12.80 Crores (Rupees Twelve Crores and Eighty lakhs Only) for a period of 365 days in Fixed Deposits. The detailed information can be obtained from http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal vide Indent No:APMC/2025-26/AUCTION108 or can contact concerned officer (9036484002) on working days at office hours. The last date for participation: Date: 06-01-2026.

DIPR/Dharwad/1031/Adverto/2025-26

Sd/- (VENKATESH G.K)
Managing Editor, Krishipete Hubballi

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
#30/1, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar,
Bengaluru – 560 052. Email:dgm3bswml@gmail.com
No: DGM-3/BSWML/PR /731/2025-26 Date: 24.12.2025

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Only Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited invites EOI from the eligible firms for the work:

Name of the Work:

Engagement of Cement Industries for Co-Processing of Low Value Plastic and Refused Derived Fuel Generated in Greater Bengaluru Area.

1. This EOI is invited only for obtaining the best engagement models with eligible and interested cement industries.
2. The details of the EOI can be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.
3. Pre bid meeting is on: 31.01.2026 at 3.00 PM at the office of the Chief Engineer and Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, #30/1, 1st Floor, GBA Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.
4. Last date (deadline) to receive the response is: 07.01.2026 upto 4.00 PM through KPPP portal.
5. Date of opening of responses is 08.01.2026 after 4.30 PM through KPPP portal.
6. The Right to Accept/Reject an any or all responses received is reserved with the Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.
DIPR/CP/4677/AAA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com
No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2025-26/4539 Dated:24-12-2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-3&4 on E-procurement portal for 8 no of works pertaining to Koppal , Raichur district. The amount put to tender for the mentioned works varies from Rs. 72.00 to 545.00 Lakhs . The tenderers may submit tenders for the mentioned work through E-procurement portal only. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after 26-12-2025. Last date & time for receipt of tender is 12-01-2025 time 16.00 hours, Pre bid meeting will be held on 02-01-2026 11.00 Hours at Division office koppal. date & time for opening of technical bid 13-01-2026 time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid 15-01-2026 time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/559/KSMCA/2025-26

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ
ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ– 562101
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY, CHIKKABALLAPURA – 562101
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:ddchikkaballapura@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ:– 08156–277022
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಗಭೂಇ/ಉನಿಜಿ/ಹರಾಜು/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:22.12.2025

ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ವಿವಿಧ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜಪ್ತು ಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ 202.22 CBM (531.82 MT) ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ 82 ಗ್ರೇ ಗ್ರಾನೈಟ್ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಉಪಖನಿಜ ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ–1994 ರ ನಿಯಮ–47 ಹಾಗೂ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.01.2024 ರಂದು ನಡೆದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್ ಫೋರ್ಸ್ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯ ತೀರ್ಮಾನದಂತೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.01.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ** ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಳಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮೂಲಕ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆಸಕ್ತರು **ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು, ರೂ.1000/– ನೋಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಖಜಾನೆ–02 ಚಲನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಹಾಗೂ ರೂ.1,51,665/–ಗಳ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಠೇವಣಿ (ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ) ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು Deputy Director, Dept of Mines and Geology, Chikkaballapura District ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದ ಡಿ.ಡಿ.ಮೂಲಕ ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.01.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಿ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.** ನಂತರ ಬಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹರಾಜಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಷರತ್ತು, ನಿಬಂಧನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಅಥವಾ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ–08156–277022 ರ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್ ಫೋರ್ಸ್ ಸಮಿತಿ(ಗಣಿ) ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
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FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Commissioner,
No. 8, Cunningham Road, Bangalore - 560052.
No: FCS/IT-02/09/2025-26 Date: 24-12-2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

To assess and determine the market cost to be incurred for the Supply and Implementation of a GPS based Vehicle Tracking System for all Wholesale and Retail Transportation Vehicles and for the Establishment of Command and Control Centre at Head Office Integrating GPS Tracking of Vehicles & CCTV at Wholesales Godowns in the State of Karnataka. Interested bidders should apply through online mode under e-Procurement Portal. RFP schedule us as follows.

1) RFP Reference No: FCS/IT-02/09/25-26. 2) RFP Publish Date: 25-12-2025. 3) Date and Time for Pre Bid Meeting: 30-12-2025 at 12.00 PM. 4) Last Date & Time for Submission of RFP: 03-01-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 5) Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid: 05-01-2026 after 5.00 PM. 6) Date of Presentation: Will be informed. 7) Tentative Date & Time of Opening of Commercial Bid: After Approval of Technical Bid. 8) Venue of Pre Bid Meeting, Opening of RFPs and Address for Communication: Office of the Commissioner, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, No.8, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560052. Phone No: +91-80-22262187, E-mail: com.fcs-ka@nic.in, ddit.fcs-ka@nic.in. 9) Telephone Number to be Contact: 080-22262187.

More details could be obtained from the Office of the Commissioner, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Bengaluru (E-mail ID: ddit.fcs-ka@nic.in, com.fcs-ka@nic.in, Landline No: 080-22262187)

Sd/- Commissioner
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/4650/Adverto/2025-26

FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Commissioner,
No. 8, Cunningham Road, Bangalore - 560052.
No: CFS/IT-02/11/2022-23 Date: 24-12-2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

To assess and arrive the market cost to be incurred for Supply and Implementation of Autonomous AI Driven Surveillance Monitoring with Integrated Edge based Analytics for all the Warehouses under Food Department along with the Provision for Integration with Command Control Centre System at Head Office in the Karnataka State. The details of which are given below. Interested bidders should apply through online mode under e-Procurement Portal. Tender schedule us as follows.

1) RFP Reference No: CFS/IT-02/11/2022-23 (Part-2). 2) RFP Publish Date: 25-12-2025. 3) Date & Time for Pre Bid Meeting: 30-12-2025 at 12.00 PM. 4) Last Date & Time for Submission of RFP: 03-01-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 5) Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid: 05-01-2026 after 5.00 PM. 6) Date of Presentation: Will be informed. 7) Tentative Date and Time of Opening of Commercial Bid: After Approval of Technical Bid. 8) Venue of Pre Bid Meeting, Opening of RFPs and Address for Communication: Office of the Commissioner, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, No.8, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560052. Phone No: +91-80-22262187, E-mail: com.fcs-ka@nic.in, ddit.fcs-ka@nic.in. 9) Telephone Number to be Contact: 080-22262187.

More details could be obtained from the Office of the Commissioner, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Bengaluru (E-mail ID: ddit.fcs-ka@nic.in, com.fcs-ka@nic.in, Landline No: 080-22262187)

Sd/- Commissioner
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/4649/Adverto/2025-26

DECCAN HERALD
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A message of discord and intolerance

Multiple incidents of aggression against Christians have been reported ahead of Christmas in India, most of them in BJP-ruled states. The community, a minority in most states, has faced attacks driven by hate and prejudice executed by Hindutva mobs or affiliated individuals. Groups such as the VHP and the Bajrang Dal have been at the forefront of these attacks, and the governments and the police have remained passive. There have been incidents in the past where the victims even faced police action. The BJP has tried to reach out to the Christian community in states where it gives the party political leverage. However, Hindutva forces have enabled the attackers in other states by shaping an environment hostile to the minorities.

In Jabalpur, in Madhya Pradesh, a visually impaired woman attending a Christmas event was publicly abused and physically harassed – in the presence of a policeman – by the vice president of the BJP's city unit, Anju Bhargava. Earlier, in another incident, tension was reported from the city after Right Wing activists alleged attempts at religious conversion by Christian missionaries. Similar incidents have been reported from states including Odisha. Christian bodies in the country have raised concern over the rise in these attacks in the form of physical violence, denial of burial rights, social boycotts, and legal action under anti-conversion laws. Places of worship and congregations have also been targeted. The recent incidents reveal attempts to disrupt events organised in connection with Christmas.

Attacks on Christians extend a pattern, with allegations of forced conversion at its centre

Anti-conversion sentiment is being projected as the trigger, with the attackers claiming that tribals and other vulnerable sections are "lured" to convert to Christianity. States governed by the BJP have tightened the laws to such an extent that conversion to another religion is almost impossible as all conversions are dubbed as forced and illegal. This is a denial of the fundamental right to profess any religion, guaranteed under the Constitution. Schools in Uttar Pradesh will not have a holiday on Christmas as, according to a Government Order, they will remain open for the commemoration of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) has expressed concern over the attacks and appealed for the right "to live and worship without fear". Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit a church in Delhi on Christmas Day. Such gestures will be meaningful only when the community is made to feel secure and is assured free exercise of their rights.

Elephant deaths call for new safety approach

The death of eight wild elephants, knocked down by a speeding train in Assam, should prompt a rethinking of the existing safeguards. A large herd of elephants – about a 100, according to reports – was trying to cross the tracks when the Rajdhani Express mowed them down. It happened on a stretch of forest demarcated as elephant habitat and close to an elephant corridor. Though the train was brought to a halt after the herd was sighted, it hit the elephants. It is being argued that greater caution during the harvest season, which sees an increase in elephant movement in the region, could have averted the mishap. The accident happened early in the morning when the fog had reduced visibility.

Animals, including elephants, are often killed in accidents on railway tracks and roads. The rise in the number of these incidents needs to be seen in the context of expanding human activity and conflicts with the wild. Natural habitats of the animals are shrinking, leading to fragmented movement and a marked change in traditional migratory routes. More roads and tracks are being laid and the change in weather patterns is leaving an impact. While all this is true, the responsibility to ensure these human-driven shifts do not make the animals' lives unsafe rests with the governments and society. Humans have an emotional bond with elephants as they are revered in religion, literature, and across cultures. The animals have lived in human environments for hundreds of years, tamed and domesticated. When they die in their habitats to accommodate human convenience or due to human oversight, it must serve as a distress call.

Solutions must centre on a system that can efficiently track wildlife movement near railway lines

The incident in Assam is particularly disturbing and should be investigated for lapses that may have caused it. All incidents involving trains and the disruption of the wild should be probed to ensure efficient corrective mechanisms. Effective protocols should be activated to deal with situations that may lead to accidents. Hundreds of miles of railway tracks run through forests in India – the country requires a system that collates real-time information about the presence of elephants and other wild animals on and around the tracks, and ensures prompt follow-through action. Community participation can be key; people living in nearby areas can be involved in mitigation efforts led by government agencies and departments. The Railways have announced plans to use AI to supplement the monitoring measures. This is a welcome initiative that can help realise the larger vision of coexistence.

EMISSION TARGETS

Can India's carbon market pivot boost climate action?

The move can ensure greater measurability and pricing systems that help exporters align with global regimes

SHUBHI GOEL AND GOPAL K SARANGI

As COP 30 reiterates the imperatives of deepening climate action with thrusts on market modalities such as carbon markets, India's strategic move in this direction has attracted global attention. The planned launch of the Indian Carbon Market (ICM) marks one of the most transformative climate action steps in the country. With the declaration of the Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) targets, industries are poised to experience a new era of measurability, accountability, and opportunity, which could redefine India's industrial competitiveness in a carbon-constrained world.

The GEI targets, forming the backbone of the ICM design element, aim at realising India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitment, a 45% reduction in the emission intensity of GDP by 2030 from 2005 levels. Each participating sector and enterprise has received a specific GEI benchmark, creating an obligation to reduce carbon intensity over time. Surplus reductions can be traded as carbon credits, while shortfalls can be met through market purchases or, where necessary, settled through the prescribed buy-out prices, failing which the entities may face penalties, thereby internalising the cost of carbon inefficiency.

The GEI targets under the ICM officially cover four sectors in its initial phase, encompassing 282 obligated entities across India. These cover aluminium (13) sites, cement (186) sites, chlor-alkali (30) sites, and pulp and paper (53) sites. This first phase reflects the government's calibrated approach, starting with sectors that already have experience under India's PAT (perform, achieve, and trade) scheme and possess measurable emission baselines. The baseline year has been set as FY 2023-24, with the compliance period covering FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27. For FY 2025-26, the targets are pro-rata from September 2025 to March 2026, followed by a full-year reduction trajectory in FY 2026-27.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has defined consistent reduction paths across these years to ensure progressive decarbonisation within each sector. This sectoral selection is not arbitrary; it reflects a deliberate strategic choice to anchor the industries with high emission intensity, strong data availability, and proven readiness. By prioritising cement and aluminium, which together account for a major share of industrial emissions and face rising pressure from global competition, and balancing them with mature sectors like paper and chlor-alkali, the government ensures that the market launches with both credibility and liquidity. This mix allows India to test the mechanism in controlled yet impactful sectors, setting the foundation for expanding the carbon credit trading

scheme (CCTS) coverage to hard-to-abate industries in subsequent phases.

While the cement sector, covering 186 obligated units, represents the largest share of entities under the first compliance cycle, the emphasis is on the industry's high process emissions from clinkerisation, aiming at reducing clinker-to-cement ratios, adopting blended cements, increasing the use of alternative fuels, and integrating carbon capture and utilisation (CCU). Aluminium (smelters and refineries), comprising 13 obligated sites, is required to increase renewable power sourcing, reduce specific electricity consumption, and improve process efficiencies.

The focus on chlor-alkali with a coverage of 30 facilities is aimed at transitioning away from mercury- and diaphragm-based processes to membrane technologies, adopting waste heat recovery, and improving electrolytic cell efficiency. Bringing 53 units in the pulp and paper industry under the GEI targets signals intent to broaden carbon accountability to medium-sized industries. It emphasises energy-efficient boilers, biomass fuel substitution, pulp yield optimisation, and wastewater energy recovery systems.

Together, these four sectors account for a significant portion of India's industrial energy use and emissions intensity. The coverage signals a move towards border carbon adjustment (BCA) readiness, with standardised measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems, sectoral emission baselines, and verified data.

A trade imperative

The ICM will have a critical role to play in BCA preparedness. The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (EU-CBAM), which is now entering its transitional reporting phase, requires importers of cement, electricity, fertilisers, iron and steel, aluminium, and hydrogen to declare embedded emissions and, from 2026, pay a carbon price in line with the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). Without a domestic carbon pricing mechanism, Indian exporters risk paying this levy abroad, effectively outsourcing their decarbonisation costs. A robust ICM, supported by credible MRV systems and GEI targets, enables India to demonstrate equivalent domestic carbon pricing, strengthening the case for CBAM exemptions and mutual recognition in the future. Moreover, data generated through the ICM will help industries build emission transparency, develop product-level carbon footprints, and establish a verification infrastructure that aligns with EU and international standards. This institutional readiness can turn potential trade disadvantages into strategic advantages.

The vision of an integrated carbon market will face hurdles – from data and MRV capacity to inter-agency coordination and fair-price discovery. Ensuring equitable participation of MSMEs and maintaining environmental integrity will be critical. However, if implemented with transparency and digital innovation, the ICM can become a benchmark for developing economies, demonstrating how technology, market instruments, and policy alignment can drive climate action at scale. With blockchain ensuring integrity, GEI targets guiding industry performance, and CBAM shaping export competitiveness, India stands at the cusp of a low-carbon industrial revolution. The challenge now lies in translating policy into practice and in doing so, defining the global narrative of credible, equitable, and technology-driven decarbonisation.

(Shubhi is the founder of Parijata Earth Foundation and a sustainability expert; Gopal is an associate professor and Head, Department of Policy and Management Studies, TERI School of Advanced Studies)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Counting on Carol at Christmas

I much preferred the stamps on the cover to the contents of the package

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON

'Your Christmas present is on the way,' wrote my pen-friend from New York. My heart jumped for joy, as Wordsworth's would leap at the sight of a rainbow. Not that I had heard of that poet when Carol's letter arrived, over six decades ago. I was 10 years old.

Carol was 12 and frequently expressed her fervent admiration for *The Beatles*. Since I knew nothing of the lads from Liverpool, I took this to mean that Carol was into insects. As for the spelling and the capital B, I assumed that those (like the definite article before Beatles) were American anomalies.

Anyway, what mattered was not whether Carol collected creepy-crawlies, but that she was sending me something. I had told her that I was looking forward to Christmas, which was fast approaching, and asked what she hoped to get from Santa. I was sure that Carol was as excited as I was about the forthcoming festival. After all, she had a Christmassy name!

Carol replied that she and her siblings, Michel and Sally, were at the start of their Hanukkah celebrations. On each of eight nights, the three of them would receive gifts. My younger brother and I wished that this child-friendly Jewish tradition could be incorporated into our Christian observances.

The countdown to Christmas was the countdown to Carol! More specifically, to her "surprise", headed towards me across the Atlantic Ocean. Every afternoon, my brother and I lay in wait for our friendly postman, who would shake his head when we accosted him. Finally, he smilingly handed me a parcel.

I must regretfully admit that I did not comport myself with dignity and decorum. I grabbed it, rushed indoors and hastily tore off the wrappings. To my utter dismay, instead of the rosy-cheeked, golden-haired doll I had eagerly envisaged, I was confronted with a box of cards.

Later, I grew to appreciate the game, which Carol believed my family would enjoy as much as hers did. My brother and I took it along on trips, and it enlivened long train journeys. At home, it was a success at parties and get-togethers.

Still, the fact remains that, on the day it came, I much preferred the stamps on the cover to the contents of the package. Password, which entailed guessing words by decoding clues, was probably popular in the US. It was not, however, what I expected from Carol at Christmas!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

End the farce. Karnataka deserves better

The prolonged tussle for the CM chair in Karnataka between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar is unparalleled in Karnataka's history. The people of Karnataka elected them in good faith to run an efficient administration, not to indulge in this farce. The less said about the so-called High Command of the Congress Party, the better. The contenders reiterate that the ball is in the High Command's court, while Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge says it has nothing to do with the issue. In short, the High Command seems neither high nor able to command. It's time to end this mockery of democracy before people lose faith.

M Basavaraj, Davanagere

Advantage industry

The NDA government's systematic dilution of environmental laws in the name of development favours industries at the expense of ecological consequences, affecting current and future generations. This reckless pursuit damages the environment, endangering citizens' quality of life, which is a fundamental right. A mass movement is urgent to stop this madness before irreversible damage is done to the ecosystem.

V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

Diplomacy the only way

Apropos 'Bangladesh diplomatic tensions ripple on Indian streets' (Dec 24), violence and vandalism are not effective ways to achieve democratic progress. Diplomatic discussion, not anarchy, is the best way to resolve disputes. All people have a right to dissent, but when it becomes unrestrained and illegal, it becomes a law-and-order issue, not a human rights concern.

Parvathy Prakash, Bengaluru

Address real issues

The state government's decision to offer incentives to SSLC teachers for special classes under Mission 40+ is a welcome move. Extra attention can help students learn better and improve learning outcomes. However, real change will come only if basic learning gaps, attendance issues, quality of teachers and student stress are also addressed. Education should aim at strong understanding, not just higher pass percentages. With proper support and planning, this initiative can truly benefit students.

K R Gagan, Tumakuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

... CM Yogi Adityanath has been accusing the Samajwadi Party time and again, but this will bring him no good... He is our chief minister and is free to speak as he wishes, and we are also free to express ourselves as we like...

Mata Prasad Pandey, SP leader and LoP, UP Assembly

There only needed to be a few words spoken for them to behave like an infection...

Jennifer L Armentrout

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Growth at the cost of parity

Karnataka's development story masks deep regional inequalities. A policy overhaul is critical

RAJESHWARI U R

Karnataka confronts a challenge that extends beyond headline growth numbers: deep and persistent regional imbalances that threaten the sustainability and inclusiveness of its development trajectory. The state ranks among India's strongest-performing states on macroeconomic indicators. It contributes close to 9% of national GDP, and its per-capita income, estimated at around Rs 3.8 lakh in 2024-25, is substantially higher than the national average, according to the Karnataka Economic Survey. Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) rose from about Rs 25.6 lakh crore in 2023-24 to nearly Rs 28.8 lakh crore in 2024-25, reflecting growth of over 12% at current prices. On aggregate, Karnataka stands among India's top growth engines.

Yet these averages conceal stark inter-district disparities. District-level income data reveal that Bengaluru Urban's per-capita income exceeds Rs 6 lakh, while districts such as Yadgir and Kalaburagi report per-capita incomes close to Rs 1.2 lakh. Such gaps are not marginal; they reflect structural divergence within the state economy that has persisted for decades.

The concentration of economic output further illustrates this imbalance. Bengaluru Urban alone accounts for roughly 36-39% of Karnataka's GSDP. High-value services – information technology, finance, professional services, and start-ups – are overwhelmingly concentrated in the capital region. Outside Bengaluru, even relatively advanced districts such as Dakshina Kannada and Udupi contribute far smaller shares, typically under 6% each. Meanwhile, the combined contribution of several northern and interior districts remains modest, with economies dominated by agriculture, informal employment, and low-value manufacturing. Growth is not only uneven; it is spatially narrow.

These patterns are the outcome of historical policy choices. Bengaluru's emergence as India's leading technology and services hub was enabled by decades of sustained public investment in higher education, research institutions, transport connectivity, and urban infrastructure, long before the IT boom of the 1990s. State-supported engineering colleges, management institutes, and public research centres created a skilled labour base that attracted private capital and multinational firms.

A parallel, regionally distinct trajectory unfolded along the coastal belt, particularly in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi. Early investments in port infrastructure, petroleum refining, cooperative banking, education, and healthcare produced diversified local economies. Mangaluru Port remains one of Karnataka's key maritime gateways, while the region's dense network of educational and medical institutions has delivered better human development outcomes than the state average. These institutional advantages translated into higher labour productivity, entrepreneurship, and economic resilience.

In contrast, many districts in Uttara Karnataka and interior regions lack such networks, making them less attractive to private investment and locking them into lower-productivity activities. The neglect is not confined to the traditionally backward districts of northern Karnataka. Uttara Kannada presents a distinct but equally concerning case. Despite its rich natural endowments – forestry, hydropower potential, fisheries, biodiversity, and ecotourism assets – the district remains under-invested in industrial infrastructure, logistics connectivity, and higher education.

Human capital disparities further deepen these divides. Bengaluru and coastal districts consistently outperform northern and interior districts on education, health, and skill indicators.

Necessary course correction

These realities point to clear policy imperatives for the 2026 Budget. Public investment can no longer remain spatially neutral. Capital expenditure must adopt a spatially corrective approach, explicitly prioritising districts with the lowest per-capita incomes and weakest infrastructure. Investments in irrigation, rural roads, logistics hubs, cold chains, and market infrastructure are essential to unlock agribusiness, non-farm employment, and regional value chains in lagging regions.

Human capital spending must also be reoriented. Equal per-capita allocations for health and education do not yield equal outcomes. Districts with poorer indicators require higher and sustained spending on teacher deployment, school quality, district skill centres, and primary healthcare infrastructure, guided by measurable district-level outcomes.

Industrial policy must be locally grounded. Replicating Bengaluru's IT-centric model across regions is neither feasible nor desirable. Districts such as Uttara Kannada require tailored strategies that combine environmental sustainability with value-added activities in fisheries, forestry-based industries, renewable energy, and ecotourism, supported by appropriate infrastructure and regulatory clarity.

Karnataka's regional imbalance is not an inevitable consequence of geography. It is the cumulative result of historical investment choices, agglomeration dynamics, sectoral concentration, and uneven institutional capacity. The 2026 Budget offers a critical opportunity to correct this trajectory not through blanket subsidies, but through precise, data-driven fiscal policy that enables lagging regions to catch up, broadens the state's economic base, and strengthens long-term resilience.

(The writer is an associate professor at the Department of Economics, Christ University)

Advantage Congress in Kerala. Can it avoid a self-goal?

DATELINE Thiruvananthapuram

ARJUN RAGHUNATH

Enthused by its impressive performance in the local body elections, the Congress-led United Democratic Front in Kerala is gearing up for the Assembly polls due in the next few months.

The pro-UDF trend in the local body polls, widely considered as the semi-finals to the Assembly elections, has raised hopes in UDF camps of returning to power in the southern state after a decade.

The CPM-led Left Democratic Front, under the leadership of Pinarayi Vijayan, is eyeing a third consecutive term, while the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is eager to reopen its account in the Kerala Assembly in a significant way.

The key takeaway from the local body election results is the prevailing strong anti-incumbency against the Pinarayi Vijayan government, with the people of Kerala still viewing the UDF—not the NDA—as the principal alternative.

While the UDF's vote share in local body polls was over 40%, the LDF secured around 35%, and the NDA about 15%.

Even as Opposition Leader V D Satheesan's graph continues to rise further following the back-to-back electoral victories for the UDF, it is not surprising to see several top leaders in the top-heavy party becoming visibly more active. This has given rumour mills ample scope to speculate about a power tussle within the Congress over the chief minister's post.

However, a return to power in Kerala is crucial not just for the party's state unit but also for the All India Congress Committee (AICC), as the Congress is currently in power in only three states. The AICC, therefore, is expected to act firmly against any attempts to play spoilsport.

"The conditions seem so favourable for the Congress now that even if it wanted to lose, it would be a difficult task," says political analyst and academician J Prabhash.

Can the LDF arrest the swing?

Meanwhile, journalist and political analyst Jacob George is not yet writing off the LDF's chances of making a comeback. "The local body election results convey that the core political votes of both UDF and LDF remain largely intact. It was the neutral votes that swung in the UDF's favour. Hence, there is still time for the LDF to reverse the swing," says George.

He also does not see the chance of an infight in the Congress playing the spoilsport. "The Congress camps are now very confident of a comeback in Kerala, which is very crucial for the party. Hence, they will keep their internal issues at bay and unitedly contest the polls," says George.

Prabhash, however, points out that with the Sabarimala gold heist issue continuing to snowball into a major scam involving CPM leaders and with the LDF government having little scope to roll out major sops owing to the acute financial crunch, it will be a near-impossible task for the LDF government to change the swing in its favour within a short span.

Even though the Pinarayi government announced a slew of sops—such as a hike in welfare pensions to over 60 lakh beneficiaries—just ahead of the local body polls, it failed to woo voters. The government is now hastily rolling out recently announced direct cash transfer schemes for women and unemployed youth.

Meanwhile, despite a hype around emerging as the largest party in the Thiruvananthapuram corporation, the BJP has little reason to cheer.

Despite party top leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah setting a target of 25% vote share in the local body polls, the BJP managed only around 15%, which is also a drop from 19.40% in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. It lost the Pandalam municipality, while its performance in Palakkad municipality declined by three seats, though it managed to secure a majority in Thrippunithura municipality.

Voting patterns in the local body elections show that the BJP gained a clear edge in three seats in Thiruvananthapuram—Vattiyoorkavu, Nemom and Kazhakoottam. The party is therefore planning to make major announcements for the Thiruvananthapuram City Corporation to highlight its development agenda.

However, the results indicate that the BJP did not get the benefit of the Sabarimala gold heist issue, and it was the Congress that reaped the benefits. The BJP could continue to woo CPM's Hindu votebanks, mostly the Hindu-Ezhava community, which is the largest Hindu community in the state.

On the other hand, the UDF has benefited from strong consolidation of Muslim votes, while the BJP's Christian outreach—aimed at denting the Congress's traditional Christian vote base—failed to make any impact.

For all these reasons, the political climate in Kerala appears overwhelmingly favourable for the Congress to stage a resounding comeback.

Satheesan has already set an ambitious target of winning up to 100 seats in the 140-member state Assembly. To ensure that every vote counts, more fringe parties are being accommodated within the UDF. The hope now is that Congress leaders will rally firmly behind Satheesan—at least until the elections are over.

DHNS

Palestinian Christians are reviving their seasonal public celebrations, hoping to bring light and holiday spirit at the end of a gloomy year in the West Bank

FATIMA ABDULKARIM

Bethlehem's Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity in the Israeli-occupied West Bank this month. AFP

Christmas back in Bethlehem. Peace and joy have yet to come

A marching band played carols, a choir sang hymns and the lights adorning a giant evergreen blinked on, as Christmas tentatively returned to Bethlehem's Manger Square.

For the past two years, Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank have largely avoided public celebrations of Christmas out of sensitivity to the war in the Gaza Strip. That has meant an absence of the traditional tree-lighting ceremonies, musical performances and elaborate, blindingly illuminated decorations.

With a fragile ceasefire largely holding, Christians in the West Bank, who make up less than 2% of the population there, are trying to revive the holiday spirit.

In Bethlehem, the biblical birthplace of Jesus, the streets were adorned with banners in Arabic and English, quoting from the Bible's Book of Isaiah: "Arise, shine, for your light has come." Yet the city's recent tree-lighting ceremony was a small bright spot at an otherwise sombre moment.

The past year has seen a surge of Israeli extremist settler attacks on Palestinian communities across the West Bank. That reached a record high in October, with 271 attacks, or about eight a day, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Palestinian Affairs, which began keeping records in 2006. Earlier this year, the Israeli government authorised the largest settlement expansion in decades and on Sunday, the Cabinet approved a proposal to authorize 19 more settlements. The United Nations and the International Court of Justice say that all Israeli settlements in the West Bank violate international law.

In the Bethlehem area, home to one of the largest Christian Palestinian communities, at least 59 Palestinians were injured in settler attacks from the start of the year through November, according to UN data, a figure that is higher than for all of 2024.

Maher Canawati, the city's mayor, said the recent Christmas event was both a celebration and a statement of hope. "We want peace. We want life," he said, adding that peace was needed "so we can continue living in our cities and in Palestine."

Beyond its religious significance, Christmas is important for Bethlehem's economy. Without the seasonal celebrations, the city's tourism industry would wither, according to Yousef Handal, 47, a barista at a cafe just off the main square.

"It brings out what the city can offer," he said. "But I can't say that the joy of the Christmas spirit is felt."

That was the mood among many Christian communities in the West Bank this Christmas, amid modest celebrations and muted merrymaking. Many settled for a theme of resilience instead.

"It feels great to be able to see smiles and decorations, and lights up in our streets," said Yousef Oweis, 23, who was making doughnuts at Ramallah's Christmas market. "It's a way the Palestinians say, 'We are here.'"

In Taybeh, the last all-Christian Palestinian village in the West Bank, community leaders set up a new Christmas market, hoping to replicate the success of the town's annual Oktoberfest-style beer festival and create an island of light amid the darkness of recent months.

Yet on Dec. 3, the night before the Christmas market opened, Fuad Muaddi, the co-owner of an ecotourism project near Taybeh, said he heard bulldozers on his property. The next morning, Muaddi said, he found a trail leading through his land to a settlers' outpost. Muaddi filed a complaint with Palestinian authorities. A Palestinian official confirmed that the incident was registered and under review. "We are trying to catch a breath, to be able to go on," Muaddi said at the opening of the Christmas market.

Later that night, in the eastern part of the village, two cars were set on fire, according to Sanad Sahlieh, an activist who is part of a local group that monitors settler activity.

The Israeli military said that it had sent forces to the area after receiving a report about "several Israeli civilians" setting fire to cars, but that none of the perpetrators were found. Still, the Taybeh market was resplendent with a choir singing songs of peace and vendors selling waffles, shawarma and chocolates. Rene Taye, a school counsellor from Taybeh who lives in Ramallah, said she had returned to her hometown for Christmas, hoping the market would brighten the mood.

"It still feels heavy," she said, but added that she thought the festivities could lift the spirits of local children, who for years had known only holidays weighed down by politics. "This year they're able to experience the birth of Christ as a time of joy and a call for continuity." For two years, the Nativity scene at Taybeh's Church of Christ the Redeemer showed Jesus lying not on a bed of straw but on a pile of rubble. This year, as a gesture of moving forward, the traditional Nativity is back. "We need to renew our land and our lives," said Father Bashar Fawadleh, the parish priest, in a recent sermon. He called for peace and security in Taybeh, and hoped that people from all over the world could visit the village, "where Jesus was." **NYT**

The truce is 2 months old. So why have hundreds been killed?

The cease-fire in Gaza is more than two months old. But the killing of Palestinians has not yet stopped for more than a day or two at a time.

Death can come from straying across the Yellow Line, the poorly demarcated border between eastern Gaza, where the Israeli military has entrenched itself, and the western half, where Hamas is seeking to re-establish control over Gaza's two million-plus residents.

Dozens of times since the truce went into effect on Oct. 10, Palestinians have been killed for crossing east, knowingly or not.

Palestinians say the continued bloodshed shows that Israel does not respect the cease-fire and is cavalier, at best, about the lives of Gazan civilians. The Israeli military says it has opened fire only in response to violations of the cease-fire, and that its rules of engagement permit targeting only people it perceives as threats.

Death can come from being related to the wrong person, as it did for much of the Abu Dalal family in Nuseirat. When Israel targeted two cousins on Oct. 29 — it said they were both local militant commanders — overnight missile strikes destroyed both their homes. One of the men was killed. So were 18 other members of their extended family, including two 3-year-olds.

For Maysaa al-Attar, 30, a pharmacy student, death came from being in the wrong place at the wrong time. She was shot in the abdomen as she slept in her parents' tent in northwest Gaza on the morning of November 14. Three weeks earlier, they'd set up the tent on the ruins of their family home.

For Ali al-Hashash, 32, death came at about 8 am on November 6 while foraging for firewood east of the Yellow Line to help feed his pregnant wife and their 4-year-old son.

Palestinian officials say that 406 people have been killed since the cease-fire, including 157 children. That is nothing like the carnage of the previous two years of war, which began with the Hamas-led attack of October 7, 2023, in which 1,200 people were killed, and prompted an Israeli invasion of Gaza in which local health officials say 70,000 people have been killed.

But the mounting body count highlights the fragility of the truce, with a difficult-to-discern border, bitter enemies in proximity and Palestinian militants sometimes emerging from tunnels on the Israeli-held side and opening fire on Israeli soldiers. **The New York Times**

Language, literature and the long divide

SHAROON SUNNY

There has been a long-standing divide between "literature" and "language" education in academia. The divide between interpretation and use, meaning and mechanics, has left us ill-prepared for the age of artificial intelligence. For decades, we treated literature as the domain of ambiguity, voice, ethics, and imagination, while relegating language to grammar, correctness, efficiency, and communication skills. Literature became elite and humanistic; language, remedial and functional. In a print-dominated world, language was largely fixed once written, and texts were produced by humans to be read and judged by other humans. The roles were clear: writers composed, readers interpreted, and teachers evaluated. In such a context, it made sense to treat literature as a space for slow reading, ambiguity, and moral reflection, while treating language skills as mechanical support—grammar, correctness, and clarity—so that meaning could be accessed. Because production and interpretation were separate acts, how language worked could be taught apart from what language meant. An AI-mediated world unsettles this arrangement.

Today, AI tools grade student essays, chatbots compose emails and reports, and even poems arrive fully formed at the click of a button. English proficiency is increasingly reduced to "prompting skills", while employers reward fluency and polish over judgment and depth. When a machine can produce a competent paragraph in seconds, the question becomes unavoidable: what exactly are we teaching when we teach English?

The problem is not that AI uses language, but that it uses it without responsibility, intention, or accountability. Students trained only in functional language skills risk becoming replaceable, competing with machines designed to optimise speed and surface coherence. Those trained only in literary interpretation, insulated from how language circulates in real institutional, technological, and professional contexts, risk becoming disconnected. AI can generate ethical, reflective, or socially aware language—but only when those values are explicitly supplied through prompting. Judgment has not vanished; it shifts decisively onto the user. Yet our classrooms still treat language skills and interpretation as separate domains. The result is a generation fluent in expression but unsure of authorship, adept at producing text yet unprepared to think through its consequences.

This gap becomes particularly troubling when viewed against broader shifts in education. Across institutions, students, and more importantly, the systems guiding them are gravitating toward fields perceived as practical and job-linked. In India, even within liberal arts spaces, the shift is stark. At some universities, English majors fell from around 17% of graduates in 2019 to roughly 9% in 2024. Political Science dropped from about 15% to under 8%; History from around 9% to 4%; and Philosophy from 5% to barely 1%. These figures do not signal the end of the humanities, but they do point to a narrowing conception of educational value—one in which utility increasingly displaces reflection.

The danger is not merely institutional decline but civic and intellectual unpreparedness. If fewer students engage deeply with language, literature, and critical thinking, a society facing AI that generates texts, arguments, and even "knowledge" will have fewer people equipped to question, critique, or contextualise those outputs. As AI systems produce essays, news summaries, and policy drafts at scale, democratic life will depend on citizens who can ask difficult questions of language itself: who is speaking, for whom, with what consequences, and through what technological mediation? Without such training, we risk mistaking coherence for truth, fluency for understanding, and confidence for credibility—an especially dangerous condition in an AI-mediated public sphere where persuasion can be automated.

What is needed, then, is not a nostalgic return to literature as an isolated sanctuary, nor a wholesale surrender to skill-based language training. The task ahead is integration. Language must be taught alongside ethics, history, power, and interpretation. Literature must be taught with renewed attention to form, rhetoric, circulation, and use. Students should learn not only what texts mean but also how they work, particularly how they persuade, exclude, amplify, and endure. In the age of AI, the real divide is no longer between literature and language but between those who understand how language shapes thought and action and those who merely deploy it. Those who can bridge the two will gain not just employability but agency. When language becomes effortless, judgment becomes harder. The task before education is not to keep pace with machines but to teach what machines cannot assume: responsibility for meaning.

(The writer is an assistant professor at Azim Premji University)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 1975

TN wasting water: Menon

Kozhikode, Dec 24
Chief Minister Achutha Menon said here today that the Cauvery waters dispute could be solved if Tamil Nadu gave up its claim that it had no water to spare. He said that both Karnataka and Kerala maintained that Tamil Nadu was wasting a considerable amount of water. If Tamil Nadu went ahead with the Rs. 50 crore World Bank project for tapping the ground water resources in the Cauvery delta, it could spare more water to both Kerala and Karnataka, according to Mr. Menon.

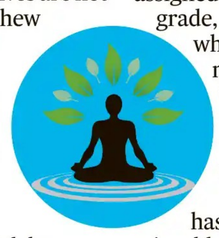
25 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 2000

Anand clinches world title

Tehran, Dec 24 (UNI)
Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand became India's first chess world champion today, defeating Alexei Shirov of Spain for the third straight time in the FIDE World Championships final. The 31-year-old Indian maestro won the fourth game of the six-game series with yet another exemplary performance and took a 3.5-0.5 lead with two games to spare. That makes the remaining two games redundant. The only players who avoided defeat when Anand had white in classical games were Alexander Khalifman and Michael Adams.

OASIS | SOM THOMAS

Rethinking union with god



Around 600 years before Christ came on earth (the event celebrated as 'Christmas'), the highest-ever standard of spiritual aspiration was being set on the Indian sub-continent. The Vedas, still in oral form, were almost complete. Teacher-priests were progressively postulating that the ultimate reality was union with Brahman ('God', in simple language).

By contrast, around the same time, in the land of the Jews, a prophet was writing, "Will you say, 'I am a god,' though you are but a man and no god?" (Ezekiel 28:9). About 600 years later, Christ said about the teacher-priests of his time, "They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them" (Mathew 23:4). Whether high aspirations (such as realising godhood) or never-ending ceremonial minutiae (as at Jesus's time), the cumulative burden on common people can become very heavy.

If ancestral sin or karmic debt is believed to carry across multiple generations or births, then especially for people born in supposedly lower spiritual strata, their sense of self-worth can take a heavy blow right from birth. The Jewish teachers, who assigned themselves highest spiritual grade, said to an oppressed man whose blind eyes Jesus had miraculously healed, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they threw him out of the temple (John 9:34).

A popular Christmas carol has the words, "sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying" to express human vulnerability – and Jesus's union, as God, with humanity, rather than the other way around. For Jesus, *tat tvam asi* ("That Thou Art") referred to the hungry, the thirsty, migrants, the naked, the sick or prisoners: He said that what was done for them was done for him (Matthew 25:35, 40). "Though he was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, being born in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:6, 7).

This is joy to the world: that Jesus Christ was born, and his eventual "bleeding, dying" on the Cross was a sacrifice that eternally cancelled every believer's accumulated debt. It allows God's goodness to be mine, through a union that was attained for me, rather than by me!

Financial strain and household work drive school dropouts

Gross Enrollment Ratio is far from NEP goal of 100% in middle, secondary school levels

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The central government has highlighted declining dropout rates among girl students in middle and secondary schools as a positive trend. However, behind the silver lining lies a worrying reality.

The Union Ministry of Education tasked the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) to study the reasons behind the dropouts. Year-end data by the ministry shows that the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in the middle-school level was 90.3% in 2024-25, but it was 68.5% in the secondary segment — far from the National Education Policy (NEP)'s goal of 100% GER in all levels.

"This led us to ask the NIOS to conduct a survey, and the largest causative reason behind boys dropping out turned out to be financial needs," said a senior ministry official.

The primary cause of girls dropping out was household duties, he added.

"Over 72% of the boys who drop out at the secondary level are between the ages of 14 and 18 years," he said. Legally, a child above 14 in India can seek employment in non-hazardous job sectors.

This phenomenon also played out in performances. Across all the school boards in India, over 50 lakh students failed in Class 10 and 12. This accounted for 30% of all the students across all boards in Class 12 and around 27% in Class 10.

SURVEY FINDINGS

- Gross Enrollment Ratio falls from 90.3% (middle) to 68.5% (secondary) in secondary school (2024-25)
- Boys mainly drop out due to financial needs and girls because of household duties
- 72% of boy dropouts are aged 14-18.
- More than 50L students failed Class 10 & 12 nationwide.
- NIOS tasked to contact failed, dropout students individually; incentives & open schooling to bring kids back

Calling it a major concern, the official said the NIOS has been asked to reach out to every student who failed in these two classes. "We are also incentivising the NIOS equal to the monthly fee of every student that drops out to bring them back to the system," he added.

The NIOS has also been encouraged to ask students to try the open-schooling method. "A child does not need to be in class to pass Class 10 or 12, because these certificates are significant for them," said the official.

Ministry data also showed that after Ladakh was declared the first fully-literate Union Territory with 97% literacy in June last year, Mizoram was declared the first fully literate state with 98.2% literacy in May this year.

Goa (99.7%), Tripura (95.6%) and Himachal Pradesh (99%) have also achieved total literacy.

The pupil-to-teacher ratio in the secondary level stood at 21 for 2024-24 against 17 for the primary level. Of the 101.2 lakh teachers across the 14.7 lakh schools in the country, 54.8 lakh are women.

'Disrespectful': India on Vishnu statue demolition in Cambodia

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Wednesday voiced concern over the demolition of a statue of a Hindu deity in the ongoing military conflict between Thailand and Cambodia.

New Delhi said such "disrespectful" acts hurt the sentiments of followers around the world, even as it urged both Thailand and Cambodia to resolve their border dispute through dialogue and diplomacy.

"We have seen reports on the demolition of a statue of a Hindu religious deity, built in recent times, and located in an area affected by the ongoing Thai-Cambodia border dispute," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"Hindu and Buddhist deities are deeply revered and worshipped by people across the region, as part of our shared civilizational heritage," he said.

Jaiswal was responding to a media query on the issue.

"Notwithstanding territorial claims, such disrespectful acts hurt the sentiments of followers around the world, and should not take place," he said.

'Return to dialogue'

"We once again urge the two sides to return to dialogue and diplomacy, to resume peace and avoid any further loss of lives, and damage to property and heritage," Jaiswal added.

The border clashes between the two Southeast Asian countries erupted in July.

Both countries agreed on a ceasefire in July that was brokered by the United States President Donald Trump. The fight broke out again this month.

'We are not safe': Unnao rape survivor to move SC

Rahul meets survivor; questions police action during protest by kin

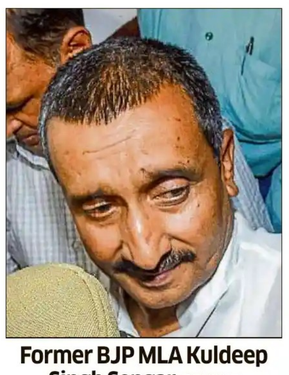
SANJAY PANDEY & SHEMIN JOY
LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI, DHNS

The 2017 Unnao rape survivor on Wednesday termed the Delhi High Court's decision to grant bail to the accused Kuldeep Singh Sengar as 'injustice' and said she and her family had started receiving threats from his (Sengar) henchmen.

The survivor, who held a demonstration against the court's decision to suspend Sengar's sentence, with her mother and lawyer Yogita Bhayana at India Gate on Tuesday evening, said she felt like dying by suicide after the decision but changed her mind, keeping in mind the feelings of her family. "We have been meted with injustice.... How will we be safe if such a person comes out...we are not safe," she said, adding that she would move the Supreme Court against the verdict.

Survivor's sister said they should all be put in jail now. "At least we will be safe there (jail)...his henchmen are threatening us...we have a brother...who knows what they (Senger's henchmen) could do to him...our family is not safe," she said.

Meanwhile, Aasha Devi, the mother of the 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape victim, expressed serious concern at the bail for Sengar and said restriction on movement of the accused does not make any difference.



Former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar. PTI FILE

UNNAO RAPE SURVIVOR

"If the convict gets bail in a case like this, how will the country's daughters remain safe? For us, this decision is no less than 'kaal' (death). Those with money win, those without money lose.

RAHUL GANDHI
Leader of the Oppn in LS

"Bail for rapists and treating survivors like criminals – what kind of justice is this? We are not just becoming a dead economy – with such inhuman incidents, we are also turning into a dead society.

Bhayana claimed that the survivor was not allowed to meet her in the morning by the CRPF personnel and also shared a video of it on X.

Some media reports claimed that the survivor's mother was forced to jump out of a moving bus in which the survivor was also sitting.

The duo was on their way to meet the media but could not do so.

Seeks Rahul's help

The survivor on Wednesday met Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and sought his support and solidarity in her fight for justice. She also met Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

Rahul found fault with the police for removing her from India Gate while she and some others were protesting against a HC order.

She told reporters that "injustice" had been done to her and that she wanted to tell leaders what she and her family were going through. She said she would also like to meet President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "I want justice," she said.

Congress sources said the survivor sought Rahul's help in getting a top lawyer to fight her case against Sengar in the Supreme Court.

She reportedly sought his help to also relocate to a state where the Congress was in power, claiming that the family feared being harmed. Sources said Rahul promised to help her. The survivor's husband also sought Rahul's help in finding a better job.

Earlier in the day, Rahul asked whether the treatment she received at India Gate was appropriate.

"Is such treatment of a gang rape survivor appropriate? Is it her 'fault' that she has the courage to raise her voice for justice? The fact that her perpetrator has been granted bail is extremely disappointing and shameful – especially when the survivor is being repeatedly harassed, and is living under the shadow of fear [sic]," the Congress leader posted on X.

Environment ministry directs states to halt new mining leases in Aravalli hills

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid the ongoing controversy on the protection of the Aravalli hills, the Union Environment Ministry on Wednesday said directions had been issued to states "for a complete ban on the grant of any new mining leases in the Aravallis" till new sustainable mining plans were prepared as per the Supreme Court's direction.

This is confirmation of what Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said on Monday against the backdrop of raging debate between the Narendra Modi government and Opposition parties, as well as environmentalists, over the extent of protection for one of the world's oldest mountain ranges under a new definition of the Aravalli hills and ranges, as accepted by the Supreme Court.

The ministry wrote to the Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Haryana governments, directing them not to issue any new mining leases till the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) finalised the scientific management plans, and to follow strict environmental protocols for operational mines.

The communication to states comes a month after the top court told the government to stop all new mining leases and carry out a detailed exercise by the ICFRE for sustainable mining plans along the lines of what was undertaken for the Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary in Jharkhand.

People take part in a 'Save Aravalli' protest led by Gen-Z in Jaipur on Wednesday. PTI

Dehradun-based ICFRE has also been asked by the ministry to identify additional areas in the entire Aravallis where mining should be prohibited. This is over and above the areas already prohibited for mining by the Central government based on ecological, geological, and landscape-level considerations.

"This prohibition applies uniformly across the entire Aravalli landscape and is intended to preserve the integrity of the range. The directions are aimed at safeguarding the Aravallis as a continuous geological ridge extending from Gujarat to the National Capital Region, and at stopping all unregulated mining activities," said the ministry in a statement.

Currently, mining is prohibited in protected areas, including four tiger reserves, 22 wildlife sanctuaries, eco-sensitive zones, buffer areas, wetlands, and in areas where plantations have been raised. Mining is also banned in all the districts falling within the National Capital Region.

"The ICFRE has been directed to prepare a comprehensive, science-based Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) for the entire Aravalli region," the ministry said.

"The plan will be placed in the public domain for wide stakeholder consultation. It will assess the cumulative environmental impact and ecological carrying capacity, identify ecologically sensitive and conservation-critical areas, and lay down measures for restoration and rehabilitation."

Cong welcomes alliance

MUMBAI, DHNS: The Congress on Wednesday welcomed the political unification of Thackeray cousins, Raj and Uddhav, however, it said that it was totally committed to the Maha Vikas Aghadi-I.N.D.I.A Opposition bloc.

"When one family unites and contests elections together, we have no reason to feel upset. We congratulate them and wish them success," Congress Legislature Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar said. "But remember, Congress has never been inclined to align with MNS. Our consistent position has always been to stand with Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) yesterday, and the same remains even today."

BMC polls: Thackerays join hands after 20 years

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

In a major turning point in Maharashtra politics, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) founder Raj Thackeray on Wednesday announced an electoral alliance ahead of the municipal corporation elections across the state, including in Mumbai.

Celebrations erupted outside Shiv Sena (UBT) and MNS offices as party workers beat drums and danced to mark the Thackeray cousins' reunion after nearly two decades.

The leaders asserted that the next mayor of Mumbai would be a Marathi and would come from the Shiv Sena (UBT)-MNS alliance.

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and MNS chief Raj Thackeray during a joint press conference announcing an alliance between their parties ahead of BMC elections. PTI

If successful, the alliance could significantly reshape Maharashtra's political landscape, with fault lines emerging within both the ruling BJP-led Maha Yuti and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

Estranged since 2005, Uddhav and Raj came together publicly on July 3 this year — after two decades — over the Marathi language issue. A series of family meetings and one-to-one interactions followed, culminating in the political alliance.

The alliance was formally announced at a jam-packed press conference, jointly addressed by Uddhav and Raj — son and nephew of late Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray — barely a month ahead of his 100th birth anniversary on January 23, 2026.

"We have come together to stay together," said Uddhav. "Maharashtra is more important than any dispute or difference," said Raj. However, they declined to talk about the seat-sharing arrangements for Mumbai or other civic bodies.

The leaders were joined by Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut, who played a key role in bringing them together. "This is a historic day," he said.

Cyberabad cops bust interstate trafficking gang; 2 infants rescued

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The Cyberabad Police arrested 11 members of an interstate human trafficking gang and rescued two newborn babies on Wednesday.

The Miyapur police and the Shamshabad Special Operations Team received credible information about the gang's Hyderabad operations. They held the prime accused in Miyapur and the others across the city.

The gang allegedly procured infants from impoverished families and sold them to childless couples for hefty sums.

Protests at Bengal land ports over atrocities against Hindus in B'desh

KOLKATA, PTI: Members of a pro-Hindu organisation held demonstrations at several land ports along the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal on Wednesday over the killing of a Hindu man in the neighbouring country.

Scuffles also broke out between police personnel and BJP supporters during a protest in Howrah district.

Trouble started after the police stopped a procession by the saffron party before it could reach Howrah Bridge, triggering heated arguments.

"We will not let anyone hamper normal life and cause trouble to commuters in the garb of protest. We will act in accordance with the law to thwart any attempts to create trouble," a senior officer said.

Security personnel try to stop BJP supporters during a protest against the killing of a Hindu youth in Bangladesh. PTI

As police prevented the march from proceeding, protesters squatted on the road and attempted to break through barricades, leading to scuffles.

The police alleged that the demonstrators turned aggressive, forcing security personnel to take action to disperse them.

Members of the Sanatani Aikya Parishad staged demonstrations at Petrapole and Ghojadanga land ports in North 24 Parganas district, Manoharpur Muchia in Malda, and Changrabandha in Cooch Behar district, alleging atrocities on Hindus in the neighbouring country.

In North 24 Parganas, BJP MLA Ashok Kirtania led a procession from Jayantipur Bazar towards the Petrapole border.

The protesters were stopped near the zero point by the BSF. The demonstrators raised slogans and expressed strong resentment against the Md Yunus-led administration.

During the march, Kirtania said border trade must remain suspended to "teach a lesson" to Bangladesh until the safety and rights of minorities are ensured in the neighbouring country.

Similar protests were reported at the Ghojadanga border land port.

UP: After Thakur legislators, Brahmin MLAs hold meeting

LUCKNOW, DHNS: In a significant political development amid the winter session of the UP Assembly, around 50 Brahmin lawmakers reportedly held a meeting to discuss "the issues faced by their community".

The meeting, which took place on Tuesday, came close on the heels of a similar meeting by dozens of Thakur MLAs, who had then said that it was for the purpose of forming a 'kutumb' (family) of the community legislators.

According to sources, the meeting of the Brahmin MLAs was held at the initiative of BJP lawmaker Panchananda Pathak. A few MLAs from the non-BJP parties were also reportedly present.

Although many of the attending MLAs remained tight-lipped about the discussions, sources said that several legislators expressed concern over the "marginalisation of the community in the caste politics in the state".

"Brahmins are being sidelined in the caste politics in the state... their voices are not getting due attention," said a Brahmin MLA preferring anonymity. Some MLAs also said that their community members were being "insulted" and that the administration turned a blind eye to their concerns, stressing the need to be more "assertive" in state politics.

CASTE ARITHMETIC

- 50 Brahmin MLAs met to discuss "issues faced by community"
- Express concern over "marginalisation of community in the state"
- Earlier, Thakur MLAs had hosted similar meet
- The 403-member UP Assembly has 51 Brahmin MLAs, including 46 from BJP

There were 51 Brahmin lawmakers in the 403-member state Assembly of whom 46 belonged to the BJP.

However, some attending MLAs also said that they discussed the increasing "Western influence" on the younger generation and a detachment from their cultural roots.

Sources said that an aide of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called Pathak to inquire about the discussions at the meeting and was told that it was not a political meeting.

Meanwhile, Senior SP leader Shivpal Singh Yadav said that the BJP indulged in the politics of caste and that his party was ready to welcome the MLAs. "They will get due respect in the SP," he said.

Bangladesh, Pakistan result of appeasement policy: UP CM

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday took jabs at rivals, saying their "appeasement policy" resulted in Pakistan and Bangladesh's formation.

During a discussion on the supplementary budget in the Assembly, Adityanath claimed that "there would not have been atrocities on Hindus had there been no division of the country".

He said that a Dalit Hindu man was lynched in Bangladesh, but the Opposition parties had not uttered a word about it. "Those shedding tears on Gaza are silent on the lynching in Bangladesh because for them, Dalits, farmers, women are merely vote banks," he said.

A mob lynched Deepu Chandra Das in Bangladesh's Mymensingh town last week over blasphemy allegations.

"Now these people will shed tears when we drive away illegal Bangladeshi migrants and Rohingyas, as many among them will be part of their vote bank," said the CM.

Adityanath also accused the rival Samajwadi Party of giving a "casteist colour" to everything.

TEMPLE TIMBER

TTD to grow sacred trees for holy flag masts

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced a project to cultivate sacred trees used to make Dhwajasthambhams — holy flag masts.

The proposed "Temple Trees" Plantation Project aims to establish dedicated plantations of Agama-approved tree species to produce the timber required for these masts.

It also aims to preserve sacred traditions while promoting ecological sustainability and institutional self-reliance.

According to Agama Shastras, the flag mast installed on the principal axis between the Raja Gopuram and the Vimanam above the sanctum symbolises the eternal link between the earthly and divine realms.

It is known to play a central role during temple festivals such as the Brahmotsavams, when the deity's celestial-vehicle flag is ceremonially hoisted.

What to expect?

Traditionally, the flag mast is crafted from a long, straight, and single piece of consecrated timber sourced from specific types of trees, including Teak (Tectona grandis), Egisa or Indian Kino (Pterocarpus marsupium), and select Terminalia and Shorea species.

These trees, known for their strength and durability, are carefully nurtured and ritually sanctified before harvesting.

Once shaped according to precise Agamic proportions, the mast is encased in metal — usually brass or copper — and, in premier temples such as Tirumala, further adorned with gold plating.

About 100 acres of TTD-managed land are expected to be allocated for cultivating these trees in a manner that is both organic and reverent.

'Bahubali' rocket hoists heaviest commercial satellite into space

BlueBird Block-2 will enable space-based 4G & 5G connectivity

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Isro chairman V Narayanan with other scientists after the launch of BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite. PTI

Dubbed as the 'Bahubali', the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro)'s heaviest rocket, LVM3-M6, on Wednesday successfully placed the US' BlueBird Block-2 satellite into its intended orbit from the second launchpad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota.

The 43.5-m rocket soared majestically at 8.55 am and placed the 6,100 kg communication satellite into the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) 15 minutes later.

This is the largest commercial communications satellite to be deployed in Low Earth Orbit and the heaviest payload to be launched by LVM3 from Indian soil.

The satellite is part of a next generation of BlueBird Block-2 communication satellites, designed to provide space-based cellular broadband connectivity directly to standard smartphones.

This constellation would enable 4G and 5G voice and video calls, texts, streaming and data for everyone, everywhere at all times. The launch was part of a commercial deal between NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), Isro's commercial arm, and US-based AST SpaceMobile (AST and Science, LLC).

"I am extremely happy to say that the LVM3M6 'Bahubali' rocket has successfully placed the Bluebird-Block 2 satellite into the intended orbit. Let me congratulate NewSpace India and AST Space Mobile on the outstanding achievement," Isro chairman Dr V Narayanan told scientists at the mission control room.

He added that the satellite was placed in a 518 km circular orbit against the planned 520 km altitude. "It was a textbook launch. The LVM3 rocket has demonstrated its 100% success rate," the director said.

The Isro chairman hailed the launch as a "New Year and Christmas gift to Bharat" and gave an update about the Gaganyaan mission, saying Isro is getting towards accomplishing uncrewed missions.

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

"A significant stride in India's space sector. The successful LVM3-M6 launch, placing the heaviest satellite ever launched from Indian soil, the spacecraft of USA, BlueBird Block-2, into its intended orbit, marks a proud milestone in India's space journey

The LVM3-M6, also known as the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-MkIII), is a three-stage rocket with a cryogenic engine designed and developed by Isro's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre. The LVM3-M6 is the sixth operational flight of LVM3 and the third dedicated commercial mission to launch the Bluebird Block-2 spacecraft.

Narayanan said this was Isro's 9th successful launch using the LMV3, a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle and that the mission will help us expedite the Gaganyaan mission.

Consider reducing GST on air purifiers: Delhi HC

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the GST Council to meet at the earliest and consider lowering or abolishing GST on air purifiers in view of worsening air quality in the national capital.

A bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela listed the matter for December 26 before a vacation bench to enable the counsel for the central authorities to inform the court as to when the council can meet and take an appropriate decision.

It was hearing a PIL seeking directions to the Centre to classify air purifiers as "medical devices" and reduce the goods and services tax (GST) to the 5% slab from 18% slab.

As the counsel for the Centre said that the GST council is a Pan India body and convening the meeting for any such matter may take some time, the bench said, "We are conscious of the configuration of the GST council and also appreciate convening the meeting may take time."

3 J&K youth trapped near Ukraine border after Russian job lure

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Families of two youth from Jammu say they have had no information about their sons' whereabouts since September, after the men were allegedly duped by agents promising lucrative civilian jobs in Russia that instead led to their deployment in support roles near sensitive locations along the Russia–Ukraine war zone.

The youth—Sachin Khajuria, Sumeet Sharma, and a third youth, Atul Sharma, all from the Kanachak area in Jammu district—reportedly travelled to Russia earlier this year after receiving offer letters for what were projected as civilian construction jobs, including bunker-related work.

According to their families, the offers promised a one-time payment of Rs 20 lakh, a monthly salary of Rs 2.5 lakh, and other benefits. The families now believe the youth unknowingly signed contracts that tied them to military-linked work close to the Ukraine border.

Koushal Khajuria, brother of Sachin, said the family last spoke to him on September 13 through a WhatsApp call. "He pleaded for help and told us that he, along with other youth, was being deployed at a sensitive location along the Ukraine border. Since then, his phone has been switched off," he said.

Similarly, Mukeet Sharma, brother of Sumeet Sharma, said there has been no communication from his brother since September 18. "Our families are living in constant fear, as we don't even know where our children are right now," he said.

The families clarified that Atul Sharma remains in intermittent contact with his relatives and has spoken to them several times since September. However, Atul has reportedly told his family that he has no information about the current location or condition of Sachin and Sumeet, deepening concerns.

The Jammu case reflects a wider national pattern since the outbreak of the Russia–Ukraine war in 2022, with several Indian youth allegedly lured abroad by agents promising civilian employment and later pushed into military-linked roles in conflict zones.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) informed the Rajya Sabha on December 18 that 202 Indian nationals are believed to have been recruited into the Russian armed forces since 2022, with 26 deaths reported.

ED arrests Gujarat revenue officer in money laundering case

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday arrested a revenue officer of Surendranagar district and allegedly seized over Rs 67 lakh in cash from his bedroom during the search operation a day earlier.

According to a senior official with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), the FIR registered on Tuesday figures three other accused, including Surendranagar collector Rajendra Patel and his personal assistant, among others. Based on the FIR, the ED has launched an investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

A day after raiding the collector's office and other premises associated with the suspects, ED arrested Chandrasinh Bhupatsinh Mori (42).

ED claimed that "bribes were systematically demanded as "speed money" for processing applications." It said the corruption was largely in connection with "granting and processing of applications for change of land use..."

MISCELLANY

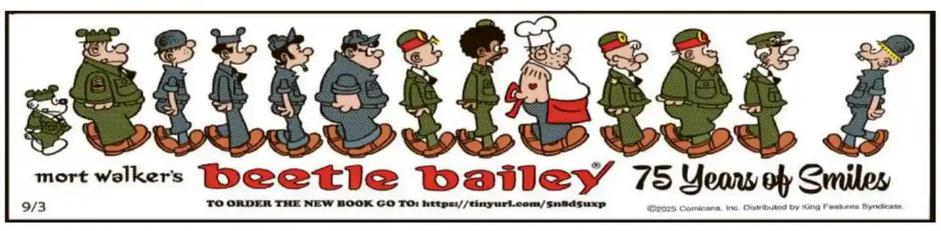
◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

I CAN'T SLEEP
LISTENING TO A PODCAST MIGHT HELP YOU FALL ASLEEP
I TRIED THAT...
BUT THE ONLY PODCASTS I LISTEN TO ARE ABOUT FOOD, AND THEY'D KEEP ME UP ALL NIGHT!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey



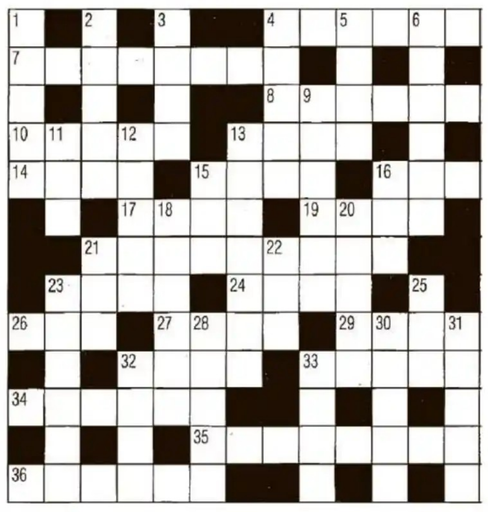
Peanuts

SPIKE JUST LEFT
SPIKE LEFT?
WE COULDN'T FIND A HOME FOR HIM AROUND HERE SO HE DECIDED TO HITCHHIKE BACK TO NEEDLES...
I LOANED HIM A FEW THINGS TO MAKE THE TRIP EASIER...
"AH, COLONEL HOGAN!"

Marvin

BITSY HAS INCREDIBLE HEARING
HE CAN HEAR THE ELECTRIC CAN OPENER ON HIS DOG FOOD FROM FOUR ROOMS AWAY
cuddle corral PET DAY

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12317



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Albeit thoughtless (6)
7 Entertainment that shows teams the way (4-4)
8 Unfavourable article on poetry (6)
10 French producer of pictures (5)
13 The air in a broken-down mine (4)
14 A stunt rider's double! (4)
15 Words cleverly spun around (4)
16 Get free (3)
17 One-sided favouritism, as in bowls (4)
19 It's bound to be Edward that's out of line (4)
21 Whereupon the players have no seats? (9)
23 Get together with James (4)
24 Relax, sweetheart, when the sea is rough (4)
26 Something saucy, soppy but not very quiet (3)
27 How one spent holidays – or half of them possibly (4)
29 Few can thus express relief (4)
32 Are they all called Jack? (4)
33 One's own little drug store (5)
34 Dive in splashily, it's lovely! (6)
35 The stories in the books? (8)
36 Discarded means of making jam set (6)

DOWN
1 That's one team out of the way! (5)
2 An old saw (5)
3 Exploits us two ways (4)
4 Mark I want to make (5)
5 Frank has to ring a writer (4)
6 Badly cut and partly burnt? (6)
9 For which shattered staves are matchwood? (6)
11 The woman up the street (3)
12 As a saint, there's a vestment for one (5)
13 To sum up, possibly less shellfish (7)
15 Home, where an old robber went on foot (3)
16 It's called the sack (3)
18 Dai may be in a tavern with one (6)
20 Being so stupid can make you most penitent (5)
21 This hood doesn't last for ever (3)
22 Scottish cross-country runner (3)
23 Beefy yet big-headedly sheepish! (6)
25 That's right, six months at Strangeways, initially! (3)
28 One of those fancy ideas (5)
30 A place to be often in spirit (5)
31 It's a handy game (5)
32 Generous inclinations? (4)
33 There's nothing in the directions about wintry weather (4)

ACROSS
4 Pantihose (6)
7 Gazelle, say (8)
8 Shrub or small tree (6)
10 Belief (5)
13 Forehead (4)
14 Prophet (4)
15 Fish type (4)
16 Influenza (3)
17 Complain bitterly (4)
19 Not false (4)
21 Bogey or bugbear (9)
23 Cat noise (4)
24 No votes (4)
26 Anger (3)
27 Unlock (4)
29 Dutch cheese (4)
32 Girl's name (4)
33 Stadium (5)
34 Declamation (6)
35 Profitable (8)
36 Motive (6)

DOWN
1 Stops (5)
2 Unit of weight (5)
3 Horizontal, level (4)
4 Rips (5)
5 Chew steadily (4)
6 Cold dessert (6)
9 Expensive (6)
11 Snake-like fish (3)
12 Mistake (5)
13 Foolish talk (7)
15 Large (3)
16 Merriment (3)
18 Overseas (6)
20 Stair part (5)
21 Shade of colour (3)
22 Forbid (3)
23 Commendation (6)
25 Karate expert (3)
28 Clean feathers (5)
30 Considers (5)
31 Third month (5)
32 The Red planet (4)
33 Mother's sister (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12316

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Can't-AB 7, Liberace 8, A-LSO 10, Bullet 11, S-prig-S 14, Tea 16, Lat-h-e 17, Thor 19, To-Kay 21, Boner 22, Ten-on 23, Bats 26, Hero-n 28, Bar 29, Adores 30, Lustre 31, Ides 32, Con-fine-s 33, Try-out.
DOWN: 1, Co-MB-at 2, Tiller 3, Blot 4, Templar 5, Habit 6, Verse 8, Alto 9, Sea 12, Ray 13, Ghost 15, Don-or 18, Hired 19, Ton 20, Ken 21, Benefit 22, To-r 23, Basely 24, Arts 25, See f-it 26, Hatch 27, Round 28, B(o)u(n)d 30, List.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Simple 7, Roulette 8, Diva 10, Erases 11, Facade 14, Tot 16, Nasal 17, Mean 19, Rider 21, Liver 22, Widen 23, Seem 26, Satan 28, Tom 29, Atones 30, Podium 31, Unit 32, Toboggan 33, Temple.
DOWN: 1, Scream 2, Prison 3, Eras 4, Cleaner 5, Atlas 6, Level 8, Data 9, Vet 12, Car 13, Dance 15, Fiver 18, Eclat 19, Rid 20, Den 21, Lineage 22, Wan 23, Sodium 24, Emit 25, Mumble 26, Salty 27, Tombs 28, Ton 30, Punt.

◆SU-DO-KU-6786◆

		2		7				3
4	5			1	8		9	
			6					
		4					7	9
			7		5			
1	7					5		
					1			
	1		9	4			6	7
9				8		4		

hard

SOLUTION TO 6785

9	8	7	4	2	6	3	1	5
1	6	3	5	8	7	9	4	2
5	2	4	1	3	9	6	8	7
7	5	1	3	9	4	2	6	8
2	9	6	7	1	8	4	5	3
3	4	8	2	6	5	7	9	1
8	7	5	6	4	2	1	3	9
4	3	9	8	7	1	5	2	6
6	1	2	9	5	3	8	7	4

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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A1 E1 A1 S1 H4 C3 C3 — 4th Letter Triple — RACK 1
I1 N1 E1 S1 A1 N1 E1 — RACK 2
E1 O1 E1 R1 O1 R1 F4 — RACK 3
T1 R1 A1 O1 R1 W4 G2 — Double Word Score — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 70-80
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

F4 R1 U1 I1 T1 E1 D2
C3 O1 N1 T1 E1 M3 N1
P3 A1 N1 T1 H4 E1 R1
U1 N1 I1 P3 O1 D2
K5 A1 T1 A1 N1 A1

RACK 1 = 72
RACK 2 = 61
RACK 3 = 66
RACK 4 = 18
RACK 5 = 30
JUDD'S TOTAL 247

PAR SCORE 160-170

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ULFFF
BLYOB
TBAERT
KPEOSN

Do you think anyone around here wants this stuff?
We'll see. Here comes Greta.
THEY WERE HAVING A GARAGE SALE AND HOPED THEIR NEIGHBORS WOULD ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) " ( ) ( ) ( ) "
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRICE FIFTH PHOTON PATCHY
Answer: They took out the starter and replaced him with a reliever who was — HAPPY TO PITCH IN

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HITORI-3240

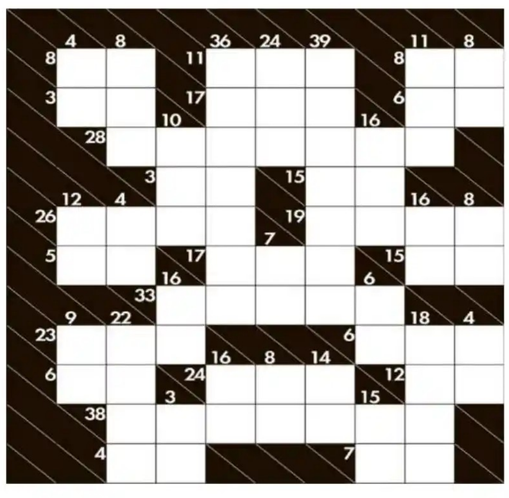
3	4	1	5	3	8	6	5
6	3	6	3	4	8	8	5
2	5	5	3	8	6	3	1
1	1	4	8	5	8	3	2
7	2	8	8	6	3	4	3
5	6	7	1	8	4	2	3
6	3	5	8	3	1	3	8
1	1	3	2	3	5	7	5

SOLUTION TO 3239

2	7	3	■	8	1	5	■
■	8	■	4	■	2	■	6
8	5	7	3	2	4	6	1
7	■	4	■	1	8	2	5
4	3	1	2	■	7	■	8
1	■	6	■	4	■	3	7
6	2	■	1	7	5	4	3
■	1	2	■	6	■	8	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3240



SOLUTION TO 3239

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3776

3	2				6		8	
7								
	7				8			
4	9		2	1				
	3							
	1				2	4		8
		8					9	
					4	5	7	

SOLUTION TO 3775

6	2	9	5	8	3	7	4	1
8	3	1	2	7	4	9	5	6
7	4	5	1	6	9	8	3	2
9	1	2	8	3	6	4	7	5
3	8	6	7	4	5	1	2	9
4	5	7	9	2	1	6	8	3
5	6	3	4	9	7	2	1	8
1	7	8	6	5	2	3	9	4
2	9	4	3	1	8	5	6	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

China seeks to capitalise on easing LAC tensions: US report

Says it aims to stabilise relations, prevent deepening of US-India ties

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

China probably seeks to capitalise from deescalating tensions along the Line of Actual Control with India to stabilise bilateral relations and prevent the deepening of US-India ties, according to a report by the US Department of War.

In its annual report to Congress on Tuesday on 'Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2025', the department said that in October 2024, Indian leadership announced an agreement with China.

The agreement was to disengage from remaining standoff sites along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), two days before a meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit.

The Xi-Modi meeting marked the onset of monthly high-level engagements between the two countries, where parties discussed border management and next steps for the bilateral relationship, including direct flights and visa facilitation, it said.

"China probably seeks to capitalise on decreased tension along the Line of Actual Control to stabilise bilateral relations with India and prevent the deepening of US-India ties; however, India probably remains sceptical of China's actions and motives. Continued mutual distrust and other irritants almost certainly limit the bilateral relationship," the report said.

According to the Department of War report, China's National Strategy is to achieve "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation" by 2049.

'China mulls military base in Pak'

A report by the Pentagon highlights the cooperation between China and Pakistan in sectors such as defence and space, adding that Beijing "likely also considered" setting up a base in Pakistan, reports PTI from New York/Washington.

In its annual report to Congress on Tuesday on 'Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2025', the US Department of War said the People's Liberation Army is considering and planning for additional military facilities.

These facilities will support naval and air projection with associated ground security forces. Pakistan is one of the countries where China has likely considered setting up a base.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Turkish rescue teams search early Wednesday for the remains of a private jet that crashed after taking off from Ankara, killing the head of Libya's armed forces and his four aides. AP/PTI

Indian woman murdered in Canada, suspect identified

TORONTO, PTI: A 30-year-old Indian woman has been murdered here, prompting police to investigate and search for a suspect on charges of first-degree murder, a press release issued by Toronto Police has said.

The deceased was identified as Himanshi Khurana.

The police located the woman's body on Saturday in a residence, a day after the missing report in the Strachan Avenue and Wellington Street W area was filed.

Police have issued a warrant for 32-year-old Abdul Ghafoori, the suspect in the case, for first-degree murder, the release said.

Ghafoori is also a resident of Toronto.

The Indian High Commission in Toronto on Tuesday expressed shock and deep sorrow over the incident, describing it as "tragic" and "disturbing."

"We are deeply saddened and shocked by the murder of Himanshi Khurana," the High Commission said, extending its deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

The Consulate said it has been closely following the matter and will continue to support the family as investigations progress.

Zelenskyy reveals latest US-led plan to end war

Moscow reviewing 20-point plan, unlikely to drop territorial demands

Volodymyr Zelenskyy

KYIV, UKRAINE, AFP

Ukraine won some concessions in the latest version of a US-led draft plan to end the Russian invasion, revealed by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, though key questions remain over territory and whether Moscow could accept the new terms.

The 20-point plan, agreed on by US and Ukrainian negotiators, was being reviewed by Moscow, but the Kremlin is unlikely to abandon its hardline territorial demands for full Ukrainian withdrawal from the east.

Zelenskyy conceded there are some points in the document that he does not like, but Kyiv has succeeded in removing immediate requirements for Ukraine to withdraw from the Donetsk region or that land seized by Moscow's army would be recognised as Russian.

Nevertheless, the Ukrainian leader still indicated the proposal would pave the way for Kyiv to pull some troops back, including from the 20% of the Donetsk region that it controls, where demilitarised zones would be established.

"In the Donetsk, Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson regions, the line of troop deployment as of the date of this agreement is de facto recognised as the line of contact," Zelenskyy said of the latest version.

"A working group will convene to determine the redeployment of forces necessary to end the conflict, as well as to define the parameters of potential future special economic zones," he added.

This appears to suggest the plan opens the way for, but delays, options that Ukraine was previously reluctant to consider -- a withdrawal of troops and the creation of demilitarised zones.

On Nato, Zelenskyy said: "It is the choice of Nato members whether to have Ukraine or not. Our choice has been made. We moved away from the proposed changes to the Constitution of Ukraine that would have prohibited Ukraine from joining Nato"

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that Moscow was "formulating its position" and declined to comment on the specifics of the latest plan.

CHRISTMAS MAGIC

A kid wears a firefighter's costume as he rides a bicycle that the firefighters gave him during a gift-giving event on Christmas Eve, in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on Wednesday. REUTERS

Khaleda's exiled son to return to B'desh after 17 yrs

Rahman is a leading contender for PM post in Feb elections

Tarique Rahman

DHAKA, PTI

Tarique Rahman, the Acting Chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and heir to the influential Zia family, is set to return home on Thursday, ending his nearly 17 years in exile in London, his party said on Wednesday.

Rahman, the 60-year-old son of ailing former premier Khaleda Zia, has emerged as a leading contender for prime minister in the upcoming February general elections.

"This will be a defining political moment," BNP spokesman Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said while referring to the return of Rahman, who is the elder son of Zia.

His father, Ziaur Rahman, was a military ruler turned politician who founded BNP and ran the country as the President from 1977 to 1981, when he was assassinated.

The interim government of Muhammad Yunus has ordered an intensified security presence coinciding with Rahman's return, while the BNP aimed to gather millions of supporters to welcome him as a show of strength.

"We have taken both covert and overt security measures as part of our enhanced vigil over his return," Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch chief Nazrul Islam told reporters.

Bangladesh Civil Aviation Authority has said it would enforce a 24-hour restriction for visitors' entry at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport from Wednesday evening to avoid crowd congestion.

Authorities are deploying a "double-layer" security cordon combining state and party measures across Dhaka ahead of Rahman's arrival, Dhaka Tribune reported.

Rahman's return comes as the BNP emerged as the forerunner in the changed political landscape after toppling of the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government in a student-led violent movement dubbed the July Uprising on August 5, 2024.

1 killed in crude bomb explosion in B'desh

DHAKA, PTI: One person was killed in a crude bomb explosion in the Bangladeshi capital on Wednesday, police said.

A crude bomb, hurled by unidentified men from the flyover, struck a person who died on the spot, a police official said.

Police said the deceased was a private shop employee.

The incident comes a day before the arrival of BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman.

B'desh govt takes responsibility of Dipu Das' family

DHAKA, PTI: Bangladesh interim government's senior adviser has said the state will take responsibility of the family of the Hindu worker who was lynched on blasphemy charges last week.

Education adviser C R Abrar on Tuesday met the bereaved family of Dipu Das (25), killed by a mob and his body set on fire on December 18 in Mymensingh.

"The state has taken the responsibilities of taking care of Dipu Das' child, wife and parents," Abrar said, calling the killing of the garment factory worker a "brutal crime which has no excuse".

Yunus's office, meanwhile, reconfirmed that financial and welfare assistance would be provided to Das' family.

30 Indians held for illegal stay

NEW YORK, PTI: US border patrol agents have arrested 30 Indian nationals, living illegally in America, operating semitrucks with commercial driver's licenses.

Border Patrol agents in the El Centro Sector in California arrested 49 illegal immigrants with commercial driver's licenses during vehicle stops at immigration checkpoints and in interagency operations, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said in a statement last week.

Of those arrested individuals, 30 were from India, two were from El Salvador, and the remainder were from China, Eritrea, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Russia, Somalia, Turkey, and Ukraine, the press release said.

Members of the October Council, a group of former hostages and victims' families calling for an independent state inquiry into the failures that led to Hamas' October 2023 attack, protest in Israel's parliament in Jerusalem on Wednesday. REUTERS

Uproar in Europe after US visa ban

PARIS, REUTERS: The European Union, France and Germany condemned US visa bans on European citizens combating online hate and disinformation, with Brussels saying on Wednesday it could "respond swiftly and decisively" against the "unjustified measures".

US President Donald Trump's administration imposed visa bans on Tuesday on five European citizens, including French former EU commissioner Thierry Breton, who it accuses of working to censor freedom of speech or unfairly target U.S. tech giants with overly burdensome regulation.

A European Commission spokesperson said it "strongly condemns the U.S. decision", adding: "Freedom of expression is a fundamental right in Europe and a shared core value with the United States across the democratic world."

The visa bans are likely to exacerbate growing divergences between Washington and some European capitals over issues including free speech and defence.

Cambodia slams Thai army for demolishing Vishnu statue

PHNOM PENH, AFP

A Cambodian official accused Thailand of destroying a statue of the Hindu god Vishnu in a disputed border area, after more than two weeks of military clashes between the neighbours.

Kim Chanpanha, a government spokesman in the border province of Preah Vihear, said the statue, built in 2014, "was inside our territory in the An Ses area".

He said the demolition occurred on Monday about 100m (328 feet) from the border with Thailand.

A Google Maps search showed the statue's location was around 400m from the border line.

"We condemn the destruction of ancient temples and statues that are worshipped by Buddhist and Hindu followers," Chanpanha said.

A spokesperson for the Thai army has not replied to a request for comment.

A screen grab of the Vishnu statue being toppled near the disputed Thailand-Cambodia border. (X)

The nations' long-standing border conflict reignited this month, killing more than 40 people and displacing around a million, according to official counts.

Each side has blamed the other for instigating the fresh fighting, and they have traded accusations of attacks on civilians.

Cambodia has repeatedly alleged that Thai forces have damaged temple ruins along the border, with Bangkok saying that Phnom Penh was positioning soldiers at the centuries-old stone structures.

Videos showing the demolition of the Vishnu statue using a back-hoe loader circulated on Thai social media pages and in local media on Monday.

Cambodian and Thai officials began on Wednesday their latest round of talks, meeting at a border checkpoint in Thailand's Chanthaburi province.

8 dead in China SUV crash

BEIJING, AFP: Eight people including several children were killed when a kindergarten director lost control of an SUV and plunged into a pond in southeast China, state media reported Wednesday.

The incident occurred Tuesday afternoon in Pengze county, a rural area 480 kilometres (300 miles) west of Shanghai dotted with small bodies of water and interlacing streams.

The crash took place on a downhill section of road likely made slippery by recent rainfall, according to New Security, a publication under the state-run People's Daily Press.

"Several children from the kindergarten were in the vehicle at the time of the accident," it said, citing local officials.

4 Indians held in Nepal for fraud

KATHMANDU, PTI: Nepal police have busted a fraud involving millions of rupees from a casino in Kathmandu, leading to the arrest of six people, including four Indians.

The fraud was unravelled in the Waldom Casino situated in the tourist hub of Thamel.

The arrests were made in connection with cheating of genuine players by using magnet-attached playing cards and eye lenses to secretly identify cards, in an attempt to manipulate the game, according to a spokesperson at the Kathmandu District Police.

The gambling fraud was detected during a special gaming event organised at Casino Waldom from December 11 to 14.

All the players involved in the gaming event are from India.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Town Panchayat Aurad(B)
Dist: Bidar Email:- ka.aurad.tp@gmail.com, Website:- www.auradtown.gov.in
No. TPA/WorksTender/CR- /2025-26/186 Date: 20.12.2025
TENDER NOTIFCATION
1) Indent No DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT52163, DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47633/CALL-3, DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47647/CALL-3, 2) Estimated cost **As per e-portal,** 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant **As per e-portal,** 4) EMD amount **As per e-portal,** 5) Last date for submission of tender **05-01-2026,** 6) Technical bid opening **06-01-2026,** 7) Address for communication Town Panchayat Aurad(B)email :ka.aurad.tp@gmail.com, 8) Website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in
DIPR/Bidar/273/KSMC&A/2025-26
Sd/- Chief Officer, Town Panchayat Aurad(B).

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MALUR
KOLAR DISTRICT, KOLAR
Maharaja circle Malur-563130, E-mail: ka.malur.tmc@gmail.com, phone:08151-232238
Letter No:TMC/AE/E-Proc/CR/13/2025-26 Date:23.12.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(as per the conditions of the Standarad Tender Document E-Procuement Tender Notification)
Constructions of Roads Work in Malur CMC under SFC Special grant and item rate is invited in KPPP portal. For more details visit KPPP PORTAL The Indent Numbers details below. Any addendums will be notified through e-procurement only. 1)DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52095 Rs.425.00 Lakhs, 2)DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52096 Rs.175.00 Lakhs, 3)DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52092 Rs.42.00 Lakhs, 4)DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDEN T52090 Rs.86.00 Lakhs, 5)DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52097 Rs.177.00 Lakhs, 6)DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52089 Rs.95.00 Lakhs, 7)DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52088 Rs.79.50 Lakhs, 8)DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT52029 Rs.72.80 Lakhs, 9)DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52098 Rs.279.00 Lakhs, 10)DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52099 Rs.154.00 Lakhs, 11)DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52091 Rs.63.50 Lakhs, 12)DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 52100 Rs.174.00 Lakhs, 13) DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52093 Rs.34.20 Lakhs, 14)DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52101 Rs.128.00 Lakhs, 15) DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52094 Rs.15.00 Lakhs, 16)DMA/2025-26/SE5260 CALL-2 Rs.3.5 Lakhs, 17) DMA/2025-26/SE6948 Rs.16.45 Lakhs, 18) DMA/2025-26/SE6949 Rs.16.75 Lakhs
Sd/- (Dr.M.R.Ravi, IAS) Administrator CMC, Malur. And Deputy commissioner Kolar dist, Kolar.
Sd/- Commissioner CMC, Malur.
DIPR/KOLAR/R.O.No.419/KSMC&A/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.
No.DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/16/2025-26 Date: 24.12.2025
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Only Through GOK KPPP Portal only)
The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

Name of the Work	Estimated amount Rs.in lakhs	EMD (in Rupees)	Stipulated Period of Service Contract
Transportation of LVP/RDF from Subbarayanapalya /Kannahalli MSW processing plant to cement industries, Call-2.	477.80	Rs. 1.00 lakh through e-payment under the following i.e. online /RTGS/NEFT/OTC and the balance Rs. 6,16,700/- by Bank Gurantee / FDR issued by Nationalised / Scheduled Bank	06 Months

Calendar of Events:
1. Date of Pre bid meeting: **30.12.2025 at 15:00 hours** in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560052.
2. Last date of submission of Bids in KPP Portal: **01.01.2026 before 16:00 hours.**
3. The Technical Bid opening date in KPP Portal: **02.01.2026 after 16:30 hours.**

Aspiring Bidders/Contractors who have not registered in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal should the website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** register before participating through the website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**.
DIPR/CP/4672/SSC/2025-26
Sd/- Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.

IT services firms upping AI game through acquisitions

AI is driving tech services firms to invest in software offerings

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

In the last few weeks alone, IT services firms have announced many acquisitions aimed at expanding their ongoing Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategy. The country's largest IT services firm, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and third-largest company HCLTech have collectively spent over Rs 9,500 crore for acquisitions alone in the last two weeks.

Through these acquisitions, companies aim to broaden their product offerings, especially in specialised technologies. These firms can accelerate innovation through acquisitions and can also increase customer engagement. HCLTech has spent over Rs 3,550 crore in just one week to buy three companies. On December 18, the company announced that it will acquire Hewlett Packard Enterprise's (HPE's) Telco Solutions business for over Rs 1,400 crore. Again, on December 22, the company announced that its software business division will acquire Belgium-based agentic AI software Wobby (approximately Rs 47 crore) and Jaspersoft, a business unit of Cloud Software Group and provider of a leading embedded analytics and pixel-perfect reporting platform for $240 million (about Rs 2,130 crore).

On December 10, TCS announced the acquisition of a US Salesforce consulting firm, Coastal Cloud, for an all-cash consideration of $700 million (around Rs 6,300 crore). Earlier in October, the company acquired US-based ListEngage for about Rs 640 crore.

After 40 years of industry expansion, the tech services industry has now matured, Everest Group Founder and Executive Chairman Peter Bendor-Samuel told *DH*. For the last two years, growth has been effectively flat. On top of this, we now expect the industry to go through a period of contraction as code generation compresses the revenue in the SDLC (software development lifecycle). AI is also driving tech services firms to invest in software offerings, he said.

"Given these challenges, we expect a period of industry consolidation through acquisitions, and we also expect the large tech services firms to be looking to move into adjacent industry sectors, also through acquisitions. Hence, these moves are not surprising as

HCL, Accenture and IBM have a long history of moving into adjacent sectors through acquisitions. In all the above instances, these firms' commitment to be leaders in the new AI-based economy underpins their motivations to make these acquisitions," Peter Bendor-Samuel added.

Apart from these two companies, in the first week of December, Wipro announced that its acquisition of the Digital Transformation Solutions (DTS) business unit of HARMAN, a Samsung company, had been completed. The company acquired it for about Rs 3,272 crore ($375 million).

In August this year, Infosys announced that it will pick up a 75% stake in Versent Group, a wholly-owned unit of Australia's Telstra Group, for over Rs 1,300 crore.

Apart from these Indian IT services firms, companies such as ServiceNow, IBM and Accenture are also on an acquisition spree. Recently, ServiceNow said it will acquire Armis for $7.75 billion in cash. Armis is in the cyber exposure management and cyber-physical security business. In the November quarter, Accenture invested $374 million primarily in six strategic acquisitions. IBM has been acquiring companies, and recently, it announced the acquisition of data streaming platform Confluent for $11 billion. Analysts observed that this will significantly boost its competitiveness in the enterprise AI ecosystem.

During the September quarter earnings conference, TCS CEO K Krithivasan said the company has stepped up its efforts in pursuing acquisitions to enhance its capabilities, including high-end services, intellectual property, and market presence. He added that they are actively looking at more opportunities for acquisitions.

Acquisitions will help companies expand their reach across geographies and help in new technology acquisitions. In the coming days, these companies will bet on acquisitions due to the rising demand for new AI tools.

M&A and strategic deals in the BFSI space rise 3x in CY25

The number of deals in the BFSI space rose 3x in CY25 (YoY). The year also saw as many as 30 deals compared to 10 in CY24, according to full-service investment banking firm Equirus Capital.

Within the BFSI sector, Banks and NBFCs accounted for M&As and strategic deals worth Rs 42,939 crore, while other BFSI segments recorded deals worth Rs 43,014 crore. Also, NBFCs have outperformed PSU, large and small private banks in terms of price movement and returns garnered in the past 12 months.

Bharti, Warburg Pincus pick up 49% stake in Haier India for $2 bn

JSW, Reliance were also in the race to acquire stake

NEW DELHI, PTI

Bharti Enterprises and Warburg Pincus on Wednesday agreed to buy 49% stake in washing machine and refrigerator maker Haier India, at around $2 billion (around Rs 17,955.5 crore).

The two companies said in a statement they are making a strategic investment in Haier India whose management control will continue to remain with the current Chinese owner. It, however, did not disclose the acquisition price. Industry sources said the deal value can be $2 billion.

Post the transaction, Bharti and Warburg Pincus will collectively own a 49% stake in Haier Appliances India Ltd, whose product portfolio spans categories such as air conditioners, refrigerators, televisions, washing machines, and kitchen appliances.

The announcement puts a curtain on a hotly contested race, in which Sajjan Jindal-led JSW group, Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries through Jio, were participating.

DEAL HIGHLIGHTS

Haier is currently at number three and four positions in washing machine, refrigerator and room A/C market

Balance stake is held by Haier India's management team

49% Bharti Enterprises, and Warburg Pincus to own stake in Haier India

China-based Haier Group will retain **49%** ownership

$2 bn is the estimated deal value

It is in the process of investing **Rs 3,500 cr** to set up a new plant

China-headquartered home appliances and consumer electronics maker Haier Group will retain a 49% ownership stake in Haier India, with the remaining stake to be held by Haier India's management team. So far, 100% stake was held by Haier Group.

The existing team will continue to lead Haier Appliances India, though the new investors will get board representation.

According to the statement, the strategic collaboration will accelerate Haier's growth and expansion in India by bringing together and leveraging the company's global excellence in innovation, Bharti's strong standing and resultant networks, and private equity firm Warburg Pincus' strong track record of scaling brands.

Moreover the deal may also provide reprieve from Press Note 3. Through PN3, the government had made its prior approval mandatory for foreign investments from countries that share a land border with India, which includes China. As per that decision, FDI proposals from these countries need government nod for investments in India in any sector.

Haier, which is at number three and four positions in segments as washing machine, refrigerator and room airconditioner, is in the process of setting a new plant in India, where it has plans to invest Rs 3,500 crore in a phased manner by 2030.

The new plant will probably be based in South.

Exports to NZ: India needs to pair FTA with logistics

Deal to benefit sectors like pharma, processed foods

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India needs to pair the newly announced Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with targeted export promotion, logistics support and regulatory facilitation to boost exports to New Zealand, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) has said.

In a research note GTRI said that "India remains under-represented in many products where it is a major global exporter and New Zealand is a large importer."

New Zealand imported goods worth just $711 million from India during 2024-25 against over $10 billion from China and the overall import of $50 billion.

India's exports to New Zealand remain miniscule even in the areas like pharmaceuticals and processed foods where there is ample potential.

Despite strong global competitiveness, India's export of pharmaceuticals products to New Zealand stood at $75 million in 2024-25, against New Zealand's total imports of $962 million worth of medicines during the year.

In processed food category India accounted for just $6.5 million or around one-tenth of New Zealand's $602 million worth of import.

"Data point to under-penetration rather than weak competitiveness, making processed foods, pharma, machinery, electronics, vehicles, aerospace and furniture prime FTA-driven growth areas," GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said.

India is among the world's largest exporters of refined petroleum products, with global exports of $69.2 billion. New Zealand imports about $6.1 billion worth of these products each year but sources only $2.3 million from India, while China supplies $181 million.

A similar gap exists in aluminium oxide. India exports more than $1.1 billion globally; New Zealand imports $255 million; yet India's exports to New Zealand amount to just $0.2 million.

India's global exports of telecom equipment exceed $21.7 billion. New Zealand imports $1.3 billion, but India supplies only $7.6 million, while China exports $707 million.

Reliance resumes Russian oil imports to feed its refinery

BLOOMBERG: Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has resumed purchases of discounted Russian crude, sourcing barrels from non-sanctioned suppliers and routing them to its refinery in Gujarat, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

India's largest refiner contracted Aframax tankers from RusExport and is routing flows to a 660,000-barrel-a-day plant that supplies domestic customers, the people said, asking not to be identified discussing sensitive information. Its return to the market is likely to pare a decline in India's purchases of Russian oil, which officials have said could more than halve this month.

The oil market is focused on the fate of Russian exports after Washington imposed sanctions on Moscow's two top producers in October in a bid to curb the Kremlin's funds for the war in Ukraine. That's left Indian refiners to tap exports from non-sanctioned Russian entities — as well as costlier alternatives from elsewhere — though Russian flows were still expected to drop sharply.

Reliance itself paused Russian purchases after the US sanctioned Rosneft PJSC and Lukoil PJSC on October 22.

Tally simplifies digitisation for MSMEs

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tally Solutions Pvt Ltd, a business automation software provider, has launched TallyPrime Release 7.0, which makes digitisation simple for MSMEs. Over the years, TallyPrime has helped businesses navigate India's fast-evolving digital landscape, from e-invoicing and e-way bills to connected GST compliance and everyday financial operations, the company said. It said SBI and Axis Bank integrations now enable MSMEs to manage payments.

Judge upholds Trump's $100k fee to process US tech visas

WASHINGTON, AFP: A US federal judge on Tuesday upheld President Donald Trump's $100,000 fee to process H-1B visa applications, acknowledging it could "inflict significant harm on American businesses and institutions of higher education."

In a 56-page opinion, US District Judge Beryl Howell wrote that the president has "broad statutory authority" to address "a problem he perceives to be a matter of economic and national security."

The $100,000 application fee announced in September gave companies just 36 hours notice before it went into effect, triggering chaos and confusion over how it would work and who would be hit.

The H-1B fee is part of a larger immigration crackdown by Trump, who has unleashed a massive push against migrants since returning to the White House -- though until now it had not targeted the visa on which Silicon Valley relies heavily. Trump argued that the H-1B visa system was being abused to replace American workers with people willing to work for less money.

Embassy closes Rs 530 crore divestment

BENGALURU, DHNS: Embassy Office Parks REIT has closed the divestment of approximately 376,000 square feet of two strata-owned blocks at Embassy Manyata Business Park in Bengaluru for a total consideration of Rs 530 crore to EAAA Alternatives' first commercial real estate fund – Rental Yield Plus.

Trilegal acted as the legal advisor to Embassy REIT and Aeka Advisors advised Embassy REIT.

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Greater Bengaluru Authority, N.R. Square, Annex 03 Building, Bengaluru - 560 002

No.: DCF/PR-470/2025-26 Date: 24.12.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the Executive Engineer, Waste Water Management-Projects, Vrushabhavati Valley Division, BWSSB, Mysore Road, Bengaluru has submitted an application and requested the Tree Officer / DCF, GBA for removal of trees standing at the premises of BWSSB at Doddabele for proposed BWSSB 100 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant Site. The details are given below:

Name of the Project	Proposed BWSSB 100 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant Site at Doddabele.			
Name of the Agency	Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Bengaluru			
Purpose for removal of trees	The trees are coming within the BWSSB Project for proposed BWSSB 100 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant Site at Doddabele.			
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS coordinates	**Boundary**	**Latitude (N)**	**Longitude (E)**	**Location**
	1	12°53'53.0870	77°28'31.3850	The trees are standing inside the premises of the BWSSB, Sy. No. 119/1-2, Doddabele Village, Bengaluru
	2	12°53'32.3750	77°28'49.4920	
	3	12°53'57.9670	77°28'31.1930	
	4	12°53'56.0030	77°28'30.1470	
	5	12°53'54.8270	77°28'30.1530	
Enumeration of Trees Total No. of trees standing in the project area	355 Nos (Annexure-1)	Description of Trees, Species, Location, Area, etc., are uploaded in the website of GBA for information of all. **(www.bbmp.gov.in)**		
Mode of communication of comments * *(Public can send their comments either by E-mail / Post / Hand)*	**Address:** a. The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002. **E-mail Id: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com** b. The Executive Engineer, Waste Water Management-Projects, Vrushabhavati Valley Division, BWSSB. E-mail id: eewwmp-vv@bwssb.gov.in # # A Copy of the comments communicated directly to Executive Engineer, WWM-Project, BWSSB, should also be marked to the Tree-Officer / DCF, GBA			
Deadline for filing objections	Ten (10) days from the date of Publication of this notification in Newspaper. *** Objections/Comments/Suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project.**			

In view of the above, the suggestions / objections / comments are invited from citizens under Section 8 (3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976.

Sd/- Tree Officer & Deputy Conservator of Forests, GBA, Bengaluru

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Greater Bengaluru Authority, Annexe-3 Building, N R Square, Bengaluru

No: DCF/PR/471/2025-26 Date: 24-12-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the Executive Engineer. Waste Water Management Projects, Vrushabhavati Valley Division, BWSSB, Mysore Road, Bengaluru has submitted an application and requested the Tree Officer/DCF, GBA for removal of trees standing at the premises of BWSSB at Mailasandra for Proposed BWSSB 100 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant Site.
The details are given below:

Name of the Project	Proposed BWSSB 100 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant Site at Mailsandra				
Name of the Agency	Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Bengaluru				
Purpose for removal of trees	The trees are coming within the BWSSB Project for Proposed BWSSB 100 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant Site at Mailsandra				
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS Coordinates	**Bou -ndary**	**Latitude (N)**	**Longitude (E)**	**Location**	
	1	12°55'6.6684	77°29'34.8216	The trees are standing inside the premises of the BWSSB, Mailsandra at Sy. No. 81/82, Valagerahalli Village, Bengaluru	
	2	12°55'2.5356	77°29'33.9900		
	3	12°55'4.5372	77°29'38.2056		
	4	12°55'1.9776	77°29'36.9888		
	5	12°55'4.2924	77°29'36.0420		
Enumeration of trees • Total No. of trees standing in the project area	310 Nos (Annexure 1)	Description of Trees, Species, Location, Area, etc., are uploaded in the website of GBA for information of all **(www.bbmp.gov.in)**			
Mode of communication of comments* *(Public can send their comments either by E-mail / Post / Hand)*	**Address:** a. The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R. Sqaure, Bengaluru -02 **E-mail ID: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com** b. The Executive Engineer, Waste Water Management - Projects, Vrushabhavati Valley Division, BWSSB **E-mail ID: eewwmp-vv@bwssb.gov.in** # A copy of the comments communicated directly to Executive Engineer, WWM-Project, BWSSB, should also be marked to the Tree-Officer/DCF, GBA				
Deadline for Filling Objections	Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notification in Newspaper ***Objections/Comments/Suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project**				

In view of the above, the suggestions/objections/comments are invited from citizens under Section 8 (3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976.

Sd/- Tree Officer & Deputy Conservator of Forests, GBA Bengaluru

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga

NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB2/SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION: 15/2025-26 DATE:22-12-2025.

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

K.W.-1,2,3 & 4 (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

Item rate tender in Two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible contractors registered in KPWD (KW4) (Minimum amount put to Tender-Rs-3.20 Lakhs and Maximum amount put to Tender Rs-240.94 Lakhs)for the 70 works through KPPP-procurement portal.

Tender documents may be downloaded from KPPP-Portal website :https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 22-12-2025 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tende02-01-2026 upto 5.30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 03-01-2026 upto 4.00 P.M. Opening of Technical bid Date: 05-01-2026 after 04.30 P.M (If possible). Opening of Finanical bid Date 06-01-2026 after 04.30 P.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in KPPP-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from KPPP-Portal help desk No+91-8046010000+91-8068948777 & support@eprochelpdesk.com

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/560/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI, Chitradurga

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: Dom/PC Training/TENDER/CR-05/2025-26 Date: 24.12.2025

Announcement of short term Re-Tender

A Short term Re-Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities for providing pre-recruitment residential Police Constable Training to minority candidates in Kalaburagi, Bengaluru, Mysore & Belgaum zones for the year 2025-26. Interested & eligible bidders/institutes can apply through e-procurement portal. The schedule of Re-Tender will be as follows.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	**24.12.2025**
2.	Tender Amount	**Rs. 480.00 Lakhs.**
3.	EMD Amount	**Rs.7.20 Lakhs**
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	**30.12.2025 at 11:30 a.m.**
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender	**07.01.2026 by 5:30 p.m.**
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening	**09.01.2026 at 11:30 a.m.**
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening	**13.01.2026 at 03:00 p.m.**
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	**080-22535902 080-22535912.** E-Mail ID:Tendercelldom@gmail.com

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-procurement website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Joint Director Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4662/Maa/25-26

An Indian white-eye feeding its chicks as seen through a living room window in Bengaluru. PHOTO BY VIKRAM S

When urban gardens turn into birding hotspots

With a little space, patience and a keen eye, many enthusiasts are taking up birding even from the quiet corners of the city, writes Pavan Kumar H

A Tickell's blue flycatcher seen in a home garden in Hubballi. PHOTO BY PAVAN KUMAR H

A crimson-backed sunbird visits a backyard garden in Dharwad. PHOTO BY VAIDEHI GUNJAL

A white-spotted fantail perched on a stone in a residential backyard in Dharwad.
PHOTO BY VAIDEHI GUNJAL

After placing a birdbath on his rooftop in Bengaluru's JP Nagar, Vikram S, a birder, did not expect a lesser white throat, a tiny desert bird, to come calling on his terrace. Seven years on, his rooftop, with its flowering plants, green spaces and birdbaths (water bowls) has become a hotspot for several rare bird species, including tawny-bellied babbler, ultramarine flycatcher, fork-tailed drongo-cuckoo, rusty-tailed flycatcher and forest wagtail, those usually found in undisturbed and protected areas.

Standing on his rooftop every day between 10 am and 12 noon, Vikram has frequently recorded the flight of migratory species such as the Indian vulture, pallid harrier, and changeable hawk-eagle, birds commonly seen in grasslands and forests.

So far, Vikram's backyard birding has documented 116 species. Beyond personal joy of watching and photographing the birds, his observations have generated valuable data that has helped the scientific community better understand bird behaviour and the ability of birds to adapt to rapidly changing urban ecology.

Backyard birding is a simple and pleasurable activity that is reconnecting people with nature. It involves regularly observing birds from balconies, terraces, streets, neighbourhood parks, water bodies around one's home and most importantly, gardens. Armed with a good pair of binoculars and a decent camera, birders explore small habitat patches near their homes or scan their gardens, recording the bird sightings, often with the help of apps such as eBird, which assist in identification based on calls and physical features.

Consistency, experts say, is key to gathering scientific data. Regular observations can provide insights into seasonal bird arrivals, behaviour, foraging patterns and ecological interconnections. Unmanicured gardens with native flowering and fruiting plants are considered ideal for attracting a wide variety of bird species.

A rare sight of Shaheen falcon and the migratory peregrine falcon in Bengaluru. (Top) A fork-tailed drongo-cuckoo, a forest dwelling bird, found around an abandoned hut in Bengaluru.
PHOTOS BY UMA VAIJNATH AND VIKRAM S

Mysuru-based senior birder Sahana M says backyard birding is both a pleasurable activity and a serious scientific exercise. "One can start by spending a minimum of 15 minutes every day, preferably at a fixed time, observing the surroundings and recording bird presence," she says. "Over time, one begins to fall in love with the activity as it reveals the intricacies of birds and nature's interactions."

Over the last 12 years, Sahana has recorded around 100 species from her home's courtyard, including flycatchers, songbirds, birds of prey, raptors, migrants and resident species.

However, she notes, development in her layout has altered local habitats. "Species like black-shouldered kites, drongos, Indian rollers and lapwings have gradually been replaced by more garden birds such as Indian white-eyes, bulbuls and sunbirds," she says, adding that birds are bio-indicators and changes in habitat are often reflected in their presence or absence.

Dharwad-based senior birder Vaidehi Gunjal, who has recorded over 70 species through backyard birding, says birds prefer natural settings. "They tend to follow the same patterns and visit undisturbed habitats during the same seasons. Migrant birds prefer the same territory of garden when they settle in for winter," she says, adding that watching tiny birds feed on fruits and flutter around flowers grown in one's own garden is a deeply satisfying experience.

Bengaluru-based birder Uma Vijnath says patience is perhaps the greatest lesson backyard birding teaches, as one has to wait for hours to get a glimpse of a particular bird or record its behaviour. "With constant observation, one starts questioning why certain birds visit specific habitats during particular seasons. Birds help us understand the complex interdependence of species in nature, even within a small garden," she says.

Word of caution

While experts encourage providing shallow bowls of water for birdbaths and cultivating native fruiting and flowering plants, they strongly discourage feeding birds with grains or other food.

Karnataka Animal Welfare Warden Hemanth Byatroy notes that placing bait for birds or any wildlife is a punishable offence under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. "Such practices interfere with birds' natural behaviour and disrupt their foraging patterns," he says.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

A bonding of faiths over festivals

Nrupathunga S K writes about two villages in Shivamogga district where Christmas and Ganesha Chaturthi are not just festivals but symbols of shared humanity and enduring harmony

At a time when society is witnessing increasing instances of communal hatred, two villages in Thirthahalli taluk in Shivamogga district stand out as a shining example of harmony and oneness. For the past 30 years, villagers of Kittinagadde and neighbouring Nandrolli have been celebrating Ganesha Chaturthi and Christmas together, transcending differences of faith.

During Christmas, members of both Hindu and Christian communities together prepare a crib and display them in a pandal set up at Kittinagadde. They also organise various competitions, including the traditional Kesaru Gadde ota (slush race), as part of the celebrations.

Interestingly, neither Kittinagadde nor Nandrolli has a temple or a church. Yet, festivals are celebrated with great enthusiasm and collective spirit. Both the villages have over 150 houses. While around 45 of them belong to Christian families, the remaining ones have Hindus. There is only one Muslim family and they too donate for the celebrations. Villagers say there has always been a strong feeling of oneness among them.

Most villagers are construction workers and farm labourers. They go to work together, share their joys and sorrows, and stand by one another in times of need. Children from all communities actively participate in cultural programmes organised during the festivals. Food prepared on festive occasions is shared and exchanged among households, turning celebrations into a collective village affair. On the main festival day, mass feeding is also arranged.

This bond, villagers say, was developed in 1995, when people of all communities came together for the first time to celebrate Christmas.

Recalling how it all began, 45-year-old Ovin D'Souza, a farm labourer, said that in 1995 Christian families were preparing cribs in their homes as part of Christmas celebrations. Their Hindu neighbours joined them, attracted by the creativity involved. Subsequently, village elders decided that instead of displaying cribs in individual houses, they should be set up in a pandal on the main road, just like they celebrate Ganesha Chaturthi by installing idols in public pandals. Everyone readily agreed to celebrate Christmas in a grand manner making it a village festival.

As a gesture of gratitude for the support extended by Hindu neighbours, Christian families joined hands with them to set up a pandal for the installation of Lord Ganesha idol during Ganesha Chaturthi. They even participated in the festivities including the idol immersion.

Ovin said the initiative came from genuine love and care, not for publicity. Village leaders Gundu Rao, Anantha Murthy and Victor Buthello played a crucial role in bringing people of different faiths together.

Since then, villagers come together to celebrate both Ganesha Chaturthi and Christmas at Kittinagadde every year.

According to Ovin, their ancestors were not overly conscious of caste or religion in their village. "They believed all human beings are one and the same," he said.

Gundu Rao, now around 75, said the feeling of oneness among villagers is very strong. "If anyone in the village passes away, none of us go to work that day. That is the bond we share," he said, adding that festivals have only strengthened this relationship, which is the real purpose of celebrations.

Echoing this sentiment, Veeresh Moras, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Thirthahalli, said while many speak about communal harmony, very few put it into practice. "These villages are living examples. They don't just greet each other during festivals, they celebrate together," he said.

He added that their spirit of unity goes beyond festivals. Villagers have jointly repaired roads and streetlights sharing the expenses among themselves, without waiting for the gram panchayat to act. "Their feeling of oneness is reflected in everyday life," he added.

Hindus and Christians prepare a crib ahead of Christmas celebrations at Kittinagadde in Thirthahalli taluk. PHOTOS BY ANVITH D'SOUZA

The various hues of Karnataka's textile heritage

Natural indigo, turmeric and pomegranate shades are making a comeback through the revival of traditional techniques, writes Hemalatha Jain

Weavers draped in naturally dyed Patteda Anchu sarees engaged in weaving; Naturally dyed yarns. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Long before I began working with Patteda Anchu, colour had already lived many lives in this land. Natural dyes have shaped civilisations across the world and in India their story begins well before written memory. Archaeological remains from the Harappan sites reveal cotton fragments dyed with madder, a plant, suggesting that as early as 3000 BCE, people knew how to draw colour from nature and fix it onto cloth. Pottery from the same sites also shows traces of mineral pigments, indicating sustained experimentation with natural materials.

During the ancient times, plants such as indigo, madder, turmeric, safflower and lodhra were recognised for their dyeing properties. Over centuries, this knowledge expanded. By the classical and medieval periods, Indian dyers had developed a rich palette of blues, reds, yellows and blacks using vegetables, minerals and metals. Colour was not merely decorative; it was knowledge passed through generations.

In Karnataka, the murals of Shravanabelagola, the ceilings of Belur and Halebidu and some other surviving temple sculptures still carry traces of natural pigments. Inscriptions refer to weavers' guilds and dyers, reminding us that textile production was once central to the region's economy and culture. Texts like the *Manasollasa* dating to the 12th century, describe garments worn by royalty, dyed using manjistha, lac, myrobalan and safflower.

What moves me most is how dyeing entered spiritual thought. Vachana poets like Jedara Dasimayya, himself a weaver, wrote of cloth absorbing colour just as the soul absorbs the divine. Dyeing was not only labour; it was understood as transformation.

Among the many dyers of the past, the nilagaras or indigo dyers, stand out. Historical accounts of their work read almost like rituals. Indigo vats (dyeing solutions) were prepared using indigo blocks, seeds of Cassia tora, lime, lye (a strong alkali) and water. The dyer watched for signs such as the smell of the vat and the change in colour to know when it was ready. Yarn was dipped, aired and dipped again, each immersion deepening the blue. The palest shade, mavi, and the darkest indigo came from the same vat, guided only by experience.

Forgotten centres of dyeing

Ilkal and Guledagudda were once thriving centres of this practice. The Ilkal sari, with its indigo or black body and red *seragu*, was part of everyday and ceremonial use. Kasuti embroidery added another layer of meaning and was traditionally done by pulling threads from the sari itself. Thousands of looms and hundreds of dyers sustained entire communities. Indigo was not an aesthetic choice alone; it was a livelihood.

And then, slowly, it unravelled. Colonial policies, famine and the introduction of synthetic indigo and chemical dyes altered established practices. Cheaper and faster colours replaced natural dyes. Artificial silk replaced cotton and silk.

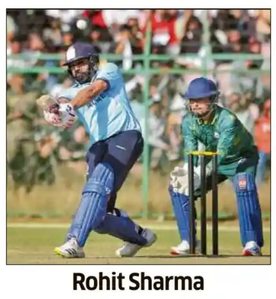
By the 1980s, handloom weaving and natural dyeing had declined so sharply that many dyers, weavers and washers left their villages in search of work. Knowledge that once sustained through daily practice began to fade.

When I started working on Patteda Anchu, I encountered this absence firsthand. As I searched for dyers in the region, I realised that many had migrated to towns for work. Indigo dyeing had nearly disappeared and what remained were just stories, a few elderly practitioners and fragments of memory.

We began cautiously. Sourcing raw materials was slow and relearning the process of natural dyeing demanded patience. We returned to indigo first, then gradually reintroduced pomegranate rind, turmeric and other natural colours. Working with these dyes reminded me that natural colour resists control. It changes with water, weather, fibre and time. Each batch carries its own character.

Through this process, Patteda Anchu became more than a textile. It became a way of reconnecting with material, place and inherited practices that still linger in the land. Indigo came to feel less like a colour and more like a link between Harappan fragments, nilagara vats, Ilkal saris and present-day work.

North Karnataka has long been home to indigo, cochineal and other natural dyes. Working with them today feels like resuming a conversation never truly lost, one that continues through Patteda Anchu with care and attention to material.



Rohit Sharma

Rohit dazzles with 155 as Mumbai decimate Sikkim

JAIPUR, PTI: Rohit Sharma made a mockery of an inexperienced Sikkim bowling attack with a 94-ball-155 on his return to List A cricket as Mumbai cruised to an eight-wicket victory in their opening Group C match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Wednesday.

A near capacity crowd of 20,000-odd fans celebrated the Christmas eve witnessing the 'HitMan' carnage, which included 18 fours and nine sixes with Mumbai chasing down a target of 237 in just 30.3 overs.

Truth be told, there was not much to write home about Sikkim's bowling unit with Palzor Tamang, Kranthi Kumar, Gurinder Singh and Ankur Malik looking overawed or clueless from the moment Rohit took guard.

It started with a trademark pull-shot over mid-wicket off Kranthi for a boundary, followed by a swivel pull shot off his hips.

The pacers lacked sting and twice, seamer Palzor's 125 kmph deliveries were swept fine behind the square for sixes.

Rohit played a few late cuts against the spinners using the pace of their deliveries. He was dropped twice but Rohit remained undeterred and always found a way to bisect the gaps at time and over of his choice.

Rohit also hit some delectable straight shots leaving the Sikkim bowlers in complete awe.

"It is the best day of our lives as we shared the pitch with such a great cricketer. He respected the good balls and punished the poor deliveries. At times he would speak to himself and say, "Yeh achha delivery thaa. Yeh shot mujhe waaha nahi yehaan marna chhiye thaa," Sikkim skipper Le Yong Lepcha said.

Brief scores: Sikkim: 236/7 in 50 overs (Ashish Thapa 79; Shardul Thakur 2-19) lt to Mumbai: 237/2 in 30.3 overs (Rohit Sharma 155).

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Former India skipper blasts 101-ball 131 for 58th List A hundred

Kohli's sparkling ton headlines Delhi's chase

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

The disappointment of M Chinnaswamy Stadium losing many big-ticket matches isn't going to heal any soon.

However, a Virat Kohli (131, 101b, 14x4, 3x6) batting exhibition, albeit behind closed doors and without being live telecast, would have provided some satisfaction and excitement to many fans refreshing scores on the internet as Vijay Hazare Trophy Elite Group D fixtures were held across the city.

At the BCCI's Centre of Excellence Ground 2, it was a gallery of stroke-making, as Kohli, who walked out to the middle after the third ball of the Delhi innings, turned a chase of 299 into a mere match simulation, as they wrapped it up in 37.4 overs with four wickets to spare.

The 37-year-old, who was making his List-A return after a 12-year hiatus, meant business from the third ball, smashing it straight down the ground for a boundary. The rotation of strike was filled with purpose, as quick singles were converted into twos and also rolled his wrists to send the ball rolling to all parts.

Kohli's innings, which is usually associated with flair and elegance, was also filled with power and precision, batting at a strike rate of over 110 for most of his innings.

While he looked aggressive, he was given a respite on 32, when he was dropped by Saurabh Kumar at mid-on. He did make use of the extra life, reaching his fifty with a flashy cut in 39 balls.

Kohli continued to display his full range of shots and rack up runs while adding his flavour; piercing the gaps and running hard and occasionally dancing down the track to dispatch it down the ground. He then reached his 58th List-A hundred in 83 balls, while also completing 16,000 runs in the process. He eventually walked back caught at cover off Satyanarayana Raju.

While Kohli did take the spotlight, Priyansh Arya (74, 44b, 7x4, 5x6) produced an entertaining innings, matching Kohli's aggressive play while stitching a 113-run partnership.

Arya's innings was headlined with an array of flashy cuts, lofts over mid-off and sweeps. The innings, however, ended while attempting a short-arm jab to mid-on, after reaching his first List-A fifty in just 32 balls.

Nitish Rana (77, 55b, 9x4, 2x6), then joined Kohli and stitched a brilliant 160-run partnership. Rana, who looked a little off-colour in the first few deliveries, grew in confidence to post a quality half-century.

Delhi's Virat Kohli sends one to the fence en route to his century against Andhra in their Group D VHT match at the BCCI's CoE Ground in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/ PRASHANTH HG

After his dismissal, Rishabh Pant (5) and Ayush Badoni (1) lost their wickets cheaply as Harsh Tyagi (4 not out) and Navdeep Saini (5 not out) completed the final rites in the 38th over.

Earlier in the day, Ricky Bhui's (122, 105b, 11x4, 7x6) genius was on full show en route to his brilliant ton while late cameos from SNDV Prasad (28) and Hemanth Reddy (27) guided Andhra to 298/8 in 50 overs.

The 29-year-old went past the three-figure mark in 88 balls, his fourth List-A ton with a single to long off. He was also dropped by Rana on 84 off Harsh Tyagi.

For Delhi, Simarjeet Singh (5/54) was the pick of the bowlers, while Prince Yadav (3/50) also returned with solid figures.

Brief scores: Group D: Andhra Pradesh: 298/8 in 50 overs (SK Rasheed 31, Ricky Bhui 122, Hemanth Reddy 27, SDNV Prasad 28; Simarjeet Singh 5-54, Prince Yadav 3-50) lt to Delhi: 300/6 in 37.4 overs (Priyansh Arya 74, Virat Kohli 131, Nitish Rana 77, PVSN Raju 2-74).

Group A: Jharkhand: 412/9 in 50 overs (Shikhar Mohan 44, Virat Singh 88, Kumar Kushagra 63, Ishan Kishan 125.; Abhilash Shetty 4-72, Vidyadhar Patil 2-66, Shreyas Gopal 2-79) lt to Karnataka: 413/5 in 47.3 overs (Mayank Agarwal 54, Devdutt Padikkal 147, Karun Nair 29, Smaran R 27, Shrijith KL 38, Abhinav Manohar 56 n.o., Dhruv Prabhakar 40 n.o.; Saurabh Shekar 2-81, Utkarsh Singh 2-71).

Kerala: 348/8 in 50 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 94, Baba Aparajith 64, Vishnu Vinod 102 n.o., Ankit Sharma 28; Manisankar Murasingh 3-72, Abhijit Sarkar 2-60, Vijay Shankar 2-57) bt Tripura: 203 all out in 36.5 overs (Tejasvi Jaiswal 40, Udiyan Bose 29, Sridam Paul 67; Amkit Sharma 2-49, Baba Aparajith 2-15).

Tamil Nadu: 310/7 in 50 overs (Sai Sudharsan 48, Narayan Jagadeesan 67, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 73, Baba Indrajith 42, Sunny Sandhu 31; Adil Ayub Thunda 2-84, Sagar Udeshi 2-42) bt Puducherry: 209 all out in 46.5 overs (Neyan Shyam Kangayan 60, Siddhant Addhatrao 37, Manimuthu Vikneshwaran 33 n.o.; Gurjapneet Singh 4-32, Sonu Yadav 2-31, Sai Kishore 2-48, Sachin Rathi 2-46).

Madhya Pradesh: 287/5 in 50 overs (Harsh Gawli 35, Yash Dubey 105, Himanshu Mantri 30, Venkatesh Iyer 34, Shubham Sharma 42 n.o., Saransh Jain 29 n.o.) bt Rajasthan: 188 all out in 43.2 overs (Manendar Singh 60; Aryan Pandey 2-28, Kumar Karthikeya 2-43, Saransh Jain 3-37).

Plate division: Bihar: 574/6 in 50 overs (Mangal Mahrour 33, Vaibhav Suryavanshi 190, Ayush Loharuka 116, Sakibul Gani 128 n.o.; TNR Mohit 2-99, Techi Neri 2-83) bt Arunachal Pradesh: 177 all out in 42.1 overs (Techi Doria 28, Techi Neri 28, Kamsha Yangfo 32; Akash Raj 3-29, Suraj Kashyap 3-31, Himanshu Tiwari 2-33).

Padikkal helps Karnataka complete highest chase in VHT

AHMEDABAD, PTI

Ishan Kishan's whirlwind 39-ball 125 was eclipsed by Devdutt Padikkal's 147 as defending champions Karnataka made a winning start to the Vijay Hazare Trophy with a five-wicket victory against Jharkhand here on Wednesday.

In a high-scoring Group A match here on Wednesday, Karnataka romped home with 15 balls to spare in the pursuit of a mammoth run chase, making 413 for five.

However, Karnataka's decision to field seemed to have backfired first when Kishan, who recently received a call-up in India's squad for next year's T20 World Cup, cut loose as he smashed 125 off a mere 39 balls, laced with seven boundaries and as many as 14 hits over the ropes.

Shikhar Mohan hit 44 runs up the order before Virat Singh (88) and Kumar Kushagra (63) shared quickfire 129 runs for the fourth wicket to set the base for Kishan to explode.

The wicketkeeper-batter used the long handle to great effect to cut, pull and slap the ball in all parts of the ground to race to his century and help Jharkhand post a commanding 412 for nine.

For Karnataka, left-arm medium pacer Abhilash Shetty picked up four wickets for 72 runs.

In reply, Karnataka captain Mayank Agarwal (54 off 34) and Paddikal (147 off 118) got the chase off to a flying start, putting on 114 off just 11.5 overs.

Agarwal's innings was studded with 10 boundaries, while Paddikal hammered 10 fours and seven sixes.

Karun Nair (29), Ravichandran Smaran (27) and Krishan Srijith (38) also made substantial contributions.

Towards the end, Abhinav Manohar (56 not out off 32) and Dhruv Prabhakar (40 not out off 22) smacked unbeaten 88 runs off just 41 balls for the sixth wicket to power Karnataka's resounding win.

Devdutt Padikkal scored a 118-ball 147 to help Karnataka chase down 413 runs during their five-wicket victory over Jharkhand in the VHT opener in Ahmedabad. X

Highest total in all one-day cricket

Total	By	Vs.	Venue	Year
574/6	Bihar	Arunachal	Ranchi	2025
506/2	Tamil Nadu	Arunachal	Bengaluru	2022
498/4	England	Netherlands	Amstelveen	2022
496/4	Surrey	Gloucestershire	The Oval	2007

Biggest wins by runs

Margin	Winner	Vs.	Venue	Year
435 runs	Tamil Nadu	Arunachal	Bengaluru	2022
397 runs	Bihar	Arunachal	Ranchi	2025
346 runs	Somerset	Devon	Torquay	1990
342 runs	England	South Africa	Southampton	2025

Highest run-chases in Vijay Hazare Trophy

Target	By	Vs.	Venue	Year
413	Karnataka	Jharkhand	Ahmedabad	2025
384	Andhra	Goa	Bengaluru	2012
383	Karnataka	Mumbai	Ahmedabad	2024
383	Bengal	Vidarbha	Rajkot	2025

Note: Karnataka's is the second-highest run-chase in all one-day cricket after South Africa's 435 against Australia in 2006.

Fastest 100s in all one-dayers

29 balls — Jake Fraser-McGurk, Adelaide, 2023	31 balls — AB de Villiers, Johannesburg, 2015
32 balls — Sakibul Gani, Ranchi, 2025	33 balls — Ishan Kishan, Ahmedabad, 2025

Note: Vaibhav Suryavanshi's 36-ball century against Arunachal Pradesh would be the joint sixth-fastest hundred in one-day cricket and the 4th fastest century by an Indian batter.

Compiled by **Arun Gopalakrishnan**

Koepka first player to defect from LIV. Will PGA Tour take him back?

NEW YORK, AP: Five-time major champion Brooks Koepka became the first player to defect from LIV Golf, a significant blow to the Saudi-funded league that raises questions whether the PGA Tour will find a way for him to return.

LIV Golf posted an announcement to its website under a statement that Talor Gooch is the new captain of the Smash team that Koepka had led.

Scott O'Neil, the new CEO of LIV, said Koepka and LIV "amicably and mutually agreed" that Koepka will no longer compete in the league.

"Brooks is prioritizing the needs of his family and staying closer to home," O'Neil said. "We appreciate the significant impact he has had on the game and wish him continued success, both on and off the course."

LIV does not disclose contracts, though it was believed Koepka had another year left from when he joined in June 2022.

The PGA Tour policy banning players who have joined the rival league requires them to sit out for one year from their last participation. LIV ended its season on Aug. 24.

Brooks Koepka

Three dozen cops guard BCCI's CoE as Kohli blasts ton

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

The first set of the Vijay Hazare Trophy Elite Group D that were hosted in the city -- BCCI's Centre of Excellence and Alur -- were held at venues where spectators aren't allowed.

After Virat Kohli confirmed his participation, the Delhi game was shifted to BCCI's CoE.

The security at the venue was beefed up with strict measures carried out as Kohli, Rishabh Pant and Ishant Sharma turned up for Delhi.

Two police vehicles with close to three dozen cops were present outside the gate and were ordered to clear and control the public outside the ground.

The cops were on guard well before 8:00 am.

Suryavanshi, Gani power Bihar to world record 574/6

RANCHI, PTI

Bihar's batters went on a record-breaking spree with teen sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi and skipper Sakibul Gani leading the carnage with the quickest hundreds to power them to a world record team total of 574/6 in a Vijay Hazare Trophy match here on Wednesday.

Bearing the brunt of the sustained onslaught in the plate group encounter were minnows Arunachal Pradesh, as Gani (128 off 40 balls) raced to his hundred in just 32 balls.

This was after Suryavanshi went berserk en route to a blistering 84-ball 190, including hitting 15 sixes, while reaching the three-figure mark in just 36 balls, the fastest by Indian in List A cricket.

Wicketkeeper Ayush Loharuka too joined the party with a 116 off 56 balls but, at a venue that has already witnessed 49 fours and 38 sixes, his whirlwind knock was somewhat put to shade by the unreal batting of Suryavanshi and Gani.

With his brutal onslaught against an attack that was pedestrian in terms of quality, 14-year-old opener Suryvanshi lit up the start of the 50-over domestic tournament before his senior colleagues took over to take their team to a world record total in this form of the game.

Thanks to the hundreds by the troika of Suryavanshi, Gani and Loharuka, Bihar comfortably shattered the previous record held by Tamil Nadu (506/2 also vs Arunachal Pradesh in 2022-23 season).

Vaibhav Suryavanshi struck an 84-ball 190 against Arunachal Pradesh to help Bihar post a List A world record total of 574/6. PTI FILE PHOTO

The boy with big dreams and a bigger work ethic

14-year-old Kickstart FC player Shriyaan hopes to represent India at the highest level

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

What would one expect from a young kid with junior Karnataka call-ups to talk about? Scoring goals, winning and having fun, sure, but wanting to dominate every game and collect trophies? Not so common.

"I like to play. I like to win matches and trophies." That's how Shriyaan Shetty describes when you ask him what he enjoys most about football. And for a 14-year-old, he knows what he is talking about.

Shriyaan has been making all the right noises in the Bengaluru football scene in his age group while ticking off his checklist to win titles.

Talking about trophies, he has won the Sub-junior Boys' National Football Championship, the KSFA Youth Premier League, an All-India under-14 tournament in Goa and the Double Pass Development League.

While winning trophies in a team sport is one thing, Shriyaan has played a pivotal role in his team's triumphs, dribbling his way into the scoring charts with 12 goals and assisting nine times in the YPL and DPDL. He also made waves in The Amateur League, scoring 11 goals and recording seven assists.

Shriyaan has built a reputation for himself through his performances. But how exactly did this story start taking shape?

Having started playing football with his brother, he joined the Vas Football Academy. His interest in "some serious football" brought him to the Golden Baby League, conducted by Kickstart FC, from where the Bengaluru boy was scouted.

"When we started scouting, Shriyaan's name was there in the list after the tournament. We then conducted trials and he was picked. And four years on, he is among the finest wingers here," Kickstart CEO Laxman Bhattarai tells *DH*.

Shriyaan Shetty

Adding to the praises, "Shriyaan is a highly talented player with a natural flair for the game. His versatility and comfort on the ball allow him to play multiple positions with confidence," reveals his academy coach, Vimal Jayakumar.

When asked about Shriyaan's dream: "I want to play for India. And I also want to play for India at the under-17 level too. Would like to get called up by foreign teams and train with them."

Dreaming of the national team is excellent. However, Shriyaan has also set an U-17 India goal, which comes with a timeline. And with a timeline comes pressure.

"I wake up at 5:30 am to attend practice at 6.00 am. That is one session that runs until 7:30 am. Then I go freshen up and get ready for school. Once I am back from school around 3:30 pm, I rest a little before a tuition teacher comes at 4:30 pm. After an hour of studies, I have another training session at 6.00 pm, which lasts 2.5 hours. After dinner, I talk to my parents."

While having the privilege of living with his parents in Bengaluru, Shriyaan stays at Kickstart's residential academy for the extra training it offers and that's how serious he is about his game.

As his massive dreams slowly take shape, he wants to ensure that his actions do most of the talking.

For feedback, email to dhsports@deccanherald.co.in

Rising shuttlers kick-start Senior Nationals with easy wins

VIJAYAWADA, PTI: Rising shuttlers Unnati Hooda, Tanvi Sharma, Rounak Chauhan and Sanskar Saraswat registered convincing wins to advance in the 87th Senior National Badminton Championships here on Wednesday.

Top seed Unnati, who had a bye in the first round, hammered wildcard entrant Akanksha Matte 21-8, 21-18, while world junior championships silver medallists Tanvi began her campaign with a 21-10, 21-14 win over Asian U-15 girls singles gold medallist Shaina Manimuthu.

Guwahati Masters Super 100 champion Sanskar also began his campaign in style with a 21-11, 21-13 win over Shikhar Rallan in men's singles.

Also advancing to the next round was the experienced Aakarshi Kashyap, who defeated Asian U-17 championships silver medallist Lakshya Rajesh 21-7, 21-9, while Ashmita Chaliha got the better of Kavya Marvaniya 21-7, 21-11.

Purva Barve, seeded 16th, was the only seeded player to bite the dust as she went down 21-19, 17-21, 18-21 against M Meghana Reddy in the round of 64.

In the men's singles event, 11th seed Chauhan defeated Ranveer Singh 21-9, 21-13, while 12th seed DS Saneeth beat Ankit Mondal 21-7, 21-11 to book their spots in the next round.

Tanvi Sharma began her campaign with straight games win over Shaina Manimuthu at the Senior National Badminton C'ships.

Andhra frustrate Karnataka after Aaryasinh century

BENGALURU, DHNS: Aaryasinh Chavda scored a century to take Karnataka to a imposing total of 473/9 declared before Andhra middle-order fought back on Day 2 of their crucial Elite Group D match of the Vijay Merchant Trophy in Bhillai, Chhattisgarh on Wednesday.

Resuming at 15 not out, Chavda went on to score 115 in a 96-run stand for the sixth wicket with his overnight partner Syaamantak Anirudh, who missed out on his century by eight runs. Chavda then forged a 131-run partnership with wicketkeeper-batter Aditya Jha (65 n.o.) to take third-placed Karnataka past the 400-run mark before falling to Yalamanachili Lalit (3/53).

In response, Andhra suffered initial hiccups but ended the day in a strong position at 189/2 (trailing by 284).

Brief scores: Karnataka: (O/n: 262/5): 473/9 in 131.5 overs (Rohith Reddy 92, Arush Jain 36, Syaamantak Anirudh 92, Aaryasinh Chavda 115, Aditya Jha 65 n.o.; Yalamanachili Lalit 3-53, K Gowtham Arya 3-146, B Netra Nanda 2-73) vs Andhra: 189/2 in 48 overs (Sri Harsha 88 n.o., T Harsha Sai Sathvik 84 n.o.).

Man City owners exit from Mumbai City FC

NEW DELHI, PTI: City Football Group, which owns several top clubs worldwide including English Premier League giants Manchester City, has pulled out of its association with Mumbai City FC amid uncertainty over the future of the Indian Super League, according to sources.

The City group acquired a 65 per cent stake in Mumbai City in 2019. Mumbai City are one of the most successful teams, winning four titles, which includes two League Winners Shields and two ISL Cups.

Karampal brace studs Rising Star's trumph

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karampal led Rising Star Hockey Club B to victory over Germanite Hockey Academy in the final match of the KSHA C Division Hockey League Championship held here at the Shantinagar hockey stadium on Wednesday.

Shaan opened the scoring for the winning team with Karampal doubling the lead in the 40th minute.

Germanite Hockey Academy responded with a goal from Mohammed, but Karampal's quick goal sealed their victory with three minutes left on the clock.

Brief scores: Rising Star Hockey Club B: 3 (Karampal 40th, 57th; Shaan 15th) bt Germanite Hockey Academy: 1 (Mohammed 56th).
Awards: Best forward: Mohammed (Germanite Hockey Academy); **Best defender**: Monoj (Germanite Hockey Academy); **Best half**: Chaman Mandanna (Rising Star Hockey Club 'B'); **Best goalkeepar**: Arman (Germanite Hockey Academy); **Player of the tournament**: Ritesh Jadhav (Belgaum District Hockey Association); **Fairplay trophy**: Belgaum District Hockey Association.

Stokes bats for English players

MELBOURNE, AFP: Captain Ben Stokes said protecting England players' welfare was his top concern on Wednesday amid claims of excessive drinking on a mid-Ashes beach break, without directly addressing the allegations.

Meanwhile Jofra Archer was ruled out of the rest of the series with a side strain.

Stokes said his main concern was the players' mental welfare and to ensure they were ready for the Melbourne Test.

""My main concern right now is my players, and how I handle this moment right now is the most important thing to me," Stokes said.

Bumrah, Pant apologised for the jibe: Bavuma

JOHANNESBURG, PTI

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma has opened up about the "unsavoury" remarks made during his team's recent tour of India, revealing that he received an apology from Jasprit Bumrah and Rishabh Pant for an offensive comment while acknowledging that Proteas coach Shukri Conrad should have avoided the infamous "grovel" reference.

In a largely tension-free tour that comprised two Tests, three ODIs and five T20 Internationals, South Africa ended a 25-year wait to win in the longest format in India before losing both the white-ball rubbers.

"I know from my side there was an incident where they said something in their language about me. At the end of the day two senior players, Rishabh Pant and Jasprit Bumrah, came and apologised," Bavuma wrote in a column for 'ESPNCricinfo'. "When the apology was made, I was in the dark about what it was about, I hadn't heard it at the time and I needed to check in with our media manager about it," he added, referring to an incident during the opening Test in Kolkata where Bumrah and Pant called him "Bauna", referring to his short height.

South Africa's Temba Bavuma (left) revealed that Jasprit Bumrah and Rishabh Pant (right) apologised for unsavoury remarks during India-South Africa series. PTI FILE PHOTOS

"What happens on the field, stays on the field but you don't forget what is said. You use it as fuel and motivation, but there are no grudges per se," he wrote.

Bavuma also talked about Shukri Conrad's comment during the second Test. Conrad had stated that the visitors wanted to make the Indian team grovel, which led to comparisons with former England captain Tony Greig's infamous comments with racist connotations during the series against West Indies.

CHESS WORLD RAPID & BLITZ

Gukesh hunts glory

Humpy aims to defend her crown in the season-ending tournament

DOHA, PTI

World champion D Gukesh will get the opportunity to end the season on a high following an underwhelming season, while Koneru Humpy will aim to defend her title when the star-studded FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championships get underway here on Thursday.

The season-ending gala is one that attracts the cream of chess and the upcoming edition will see the likes of five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen, Americans Fabiano Caruana and Wesley So, Russian GM Ian Nepomniachtchi and India's R Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and Nihal Sarin, among others, make a bid for the top purse in Open section.

Reigning World Champion D Gukesh (in photo) has been overshadowed by R Praggnanandhaa in 2025.

Gukesh, who won the world title after defeating Ding Liren in 2023, has been overshadowed this year. The champion began 2025 with a loss to compatriot R Praggnanandhaa at the Tata Steel Chess Tournament, whose rise has earned widespread respect across the chess world, including from world No.1 Magnus Carlsen.

With the World Championships scheduled next year, this is the opportunity for Gukesh to get his confidence back, and what better way than to beat the likes of Carlsen, So and Nepomniachtchi, to name a few.

Erigaisi too has shown that he is among the frontrunners to counter the supremacy of Norway's Carlsen and Caruana, and the 22-year-old Indian would be motivated after missing the opportunity to secure a Candidates berth at the World Cup.

India's growing clout in chess is evident from the draw as a record 29 players in rapid and blitz (Open) and another 13 players are in the Women's section.

Prepared for any role: Shafali

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI

India Women opener Shafali Verma has emphasised on preparing for every role in the team, saying all batters regularly bowl in the nets to train themselves for different match situations, which is in sync with the philosophy of head coach Amol Muzumdar.

Shafali smashed a 34-ball 69 to power India to a seven-wicket victory in the second T20I against Sri Lanka here on Tuesday, giving the home team a 2-0 lead in the five-match rubber.

When the discussion turned to bowling options at the post-match media conference, she said, "Of course, I will talk about myself. I like to bowl a lot, and I think when we get bored while fielding, we get to bowl. So, we get to contribute more to the team."

She added, "Amol sir always tells the team that anyone can bowl and everyone should be ready, and we all keep bowling in the nets. We prepare for that, we all are very keen to bowl. Even Smriti didi did as well. Me and Jemimah are also bowling in the nets.

Shafali Verma scored a match-winning 69 in the second T20I. PTI

"So, I think we all bowl. Cricket is a different game. You never know when the team will need you. So we all have to be ready for that."

Shafali's unbeaten 69 is now her career-best WT20I score in India. This was her fifth half-century in home conditions and 12th overall in the format.

The Indians have been sloppy on the field of late, dropping catches that ought to be taken, but Shafali said the team has been working very hard to improve.

Goa put Karnataka out of misery

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Former champions Karnataka bowed out of the competition at the group stage for the second year running after going down 0-2 to Goa in their final Group H match at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Wednesday.

Goals from skipper Stanley Teotonia Fernandes (45+2nd minute) and substitute Joshua D'silva (69th) gave two-time champions Goa their first win of the tournament as they pipped Karnataka to finish second in the group.

The 2023 champions, who were without their star player Macarton Nickson due to yellow-card accumulation suspension, were already playing for pride as their fate was sealed even before kickoff with Services defeating Lakshadweep to secure the top spot in the group.

Karnataka's best first-half chance came close to the 40-minute mark when Nikhil Raj found space in the box, but Goa goalkeeper Sanij Bugde dealt with the effort comfortably. Goa then struck against the run of play in injury time with skipper Stendly Fernandes calmly finishing at the far post after a perfectly lobbed pass from Vellington.

Karnataka remained wasteful in second half as Goa substitute Joshua D'Silva made them pay with a solo run from the left to make it 2-0.

Speaking to *DH* after the match, Karnataka head coach Ravi Babu Raju felt that the lack of quality strikers was the reason behind their early exit.

Results: Goa: 2 (Stanley Fernandes 45+2nd, Joshua D'silva) bt Karnataka: 0; Services: 2 (Roshan Panna 54th, Vijay J 60th) bt Lakshadweep: 1 (Nisamudheen 88th).

Goa players celebrate after their opening goal against Karnataka during their Santosh Trophy group match in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Panav powers Vydehi School of Excellence to big win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Panav Chawla's blistering ton aided by Havish Prathap's half-century (91) powered Vydehi School of Excellence to a commanding 244-run victory over Jyothi Kendriya Vidyalaya in the BT Ramaiah Shied for Under-14 school Division II here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Batting first, Panav's 134-ball 161, that had 16 fours, was well-supported by Havish's 100-ball 91 to take Vydehi School of Excellence to a big team total of 371 for seven in 50 overs.

Later, the pressure of chasing a massive target got the better of Jyothi Kendriya Vidyalaya's batting as Tanish Bennuri (3/43), Archit Rawat (3/9) and Anvith Sai Illa (2/4) made hay with the ball to skittle them for 127 in 38.2 overs.

Brief scores: Vydehi School of Excellence: 371/7 in 50 overs (Panav Chawla 161, Havish Prathap 91; Sree Raghav S 3-60) bt Jyothi Kendriya Vidyalaya: 127 all out in 38.2 overs (Archit V Rao 25, Prashanth Gowda GS 49; Tanish Bennuri 3-43, Anvith Sai Illa 2-4, Archit Rawat 3-9).
Ebenezer International School: 309/5 in 50 overs (Sai Vedant 35, Advay Choudhary 81, Aarav Sarin 58, Eepa Tanush 40 n.o.; Shreejith 3-52) bt Presidency School: 105 all out in 34.1 overs (Saksham Amit Bishnoi 3-27, Eepa Tanush 4-14, Aarav S 2-18).
Sri Aurobindo Memorial School, CBSE: 168 all out in 48.2 overs (Siddharth Malu 93; Pratham Nayak M 2-29, Aarnav Karsha 4-19, Jeevan KS 2-9) lt to VSS International Public School: 169/2 in 24.3 overs (Sankalp S 54, Aarnav Karsha 34, Anirudh 44 n.o.).
Bethany High School: 79 all out in 22.2 overs (Pavandeep R Bharadakane 3-5, Shri Narayan 4-11, Sai Aarush Sangati 2-0) lt to The Sports School: 82/4 in 9 overs (Deghul Mn 29; Neil J Anthony 3-16).
KLE Society's School: 192 all out in 42.4 overs (Harsha C 69; Vikas Seervi 2-56, Suraj Rathore 6-28) bt Kensri School & College: 179 all out in 44.2 overs (Kunapalli Rishi 52, Bhofinn Sanjeevareddy 84; Sampreeth Vinayak Hegde 2-25, Karthik Mahantesh S 3-12, Nachiketh K 2-23, M Santhosh 2-45).
St. Francis School, ICSE: 269/4 in 50 overs (BG Kavin Mukish 64, V Naga Vikram Rao 104, Aryan Rajesh
Nayak 71 n.o.) bt Soundarya Central School: 156/9 in 50 overs (Madhuchetan Reddy MV 27, Puneeth HR 33; BG Kavin Mukish 4-24, Aditya Singh 2-36).
Vibgyor High, Marathahalli: 222/9 in 50 overs (Darjipati Srikrishna Prateek 26, Jithesh Neelareddy 78, Mohammed Rehaan 48; Vihan HV 2-26, Parth Sharma 2-45) bt Sri Kumaran Children's Academy: 213/9 in 50 overs (Saket 82, Parth Sharma 25; Jithesh Neelareddy 3-27).

Lyon determined to bounce back after surgery

MELBOURNE, AFP: Off-spinner Nathan Lyon is determined to fight his way back into the Australian team after undergoing surgery for a torn hamstring, coach Andrew McDonald said.

The 38-year-old faces an extended period on the sidelines after damaging his right hamstring saving a boundary on day five of the third Ashes Test in Adelaide.

McDonald said Lyon remained a key part of their plans as reports speculated that his 141-Test career could be over.

It is the second serious injury Lyon has sustained in two years after being ruled out of the previous Ashes series against England with a calf injury picked up at Lord's in 2023.

He had surgery on Tuesday, but was expected to be with the team during the fourth Ashes Test in Melbourne starting Friday.

"He's facing a long recovery timeframe," said McDonald.

Arsenal edge Palace on penalties to reach semis

LONDON, AFP

Kepa Arrizabalaga was Arsenal's League Cup quarter-final hero with the decisive penalty shoot-out save that completed a miserable evening for Crystal Palace defender Maxence Lacroix on Tuesday.

Lacroix's own goal put Arsenal ahead with 10 minutes left at the Emirates Stadium before Marc Guehi snatched Palace's stoppage-time equaliser in the 1-1 draw.

That set the stage for a shoot-out in which both teams scored their first seven penalties.

William Saliba converted Arsenal's eighth kick and Kepa dived to his right to save Lacroix's effort and secure an 8-7 victory.

Kepa Arrizabalaga

It was a cathartic moment for the Spanish goalkeeper, who infamously refused to be substituted before Chelsea's League Cup final penalty shoot-out defeat against Manchester City in 2019.

Kepa also missed a spot-kick in the Blues' 2022 League Cup final shoot-out loss to Liverpool.

The Gunners will play London rivals Chelsea in the semi-finals over two legs in January and February, with Manchester City facing holders Newcastle in the other last four clash.

"We generated a lot and should have scored many more goals. When you don't close the games, it can always happen that you concede," Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta said.

"We had some big individual performances. Kepa, his level of commitment with the group is just incredible.

"I think the players were so composed with the penalties and in the end, Kepa managed to save one. We are where we want to be."

Result: Arsenal: 1 (Maxence Lacroix 80th OG) bt Crystal Palace: 1 (Marc Guehi 90+5th) via shootout 8-7.

MARUTI SUZUKI
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